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THE LAND OF BOLIVAR.

VOLUME II.

TROPICAL VEGETATION, RIO SAN ESTEBAN.

(See page 115.)

THE LAND OF BOLIVAR

OR

WAR, PEACE, AND ADVENTURE

IN THE

REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

BY

JAMES MUDIE SPENCE, F.R.G.S.

MEMBER OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

83665

With Maps and Illustrations.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. II.

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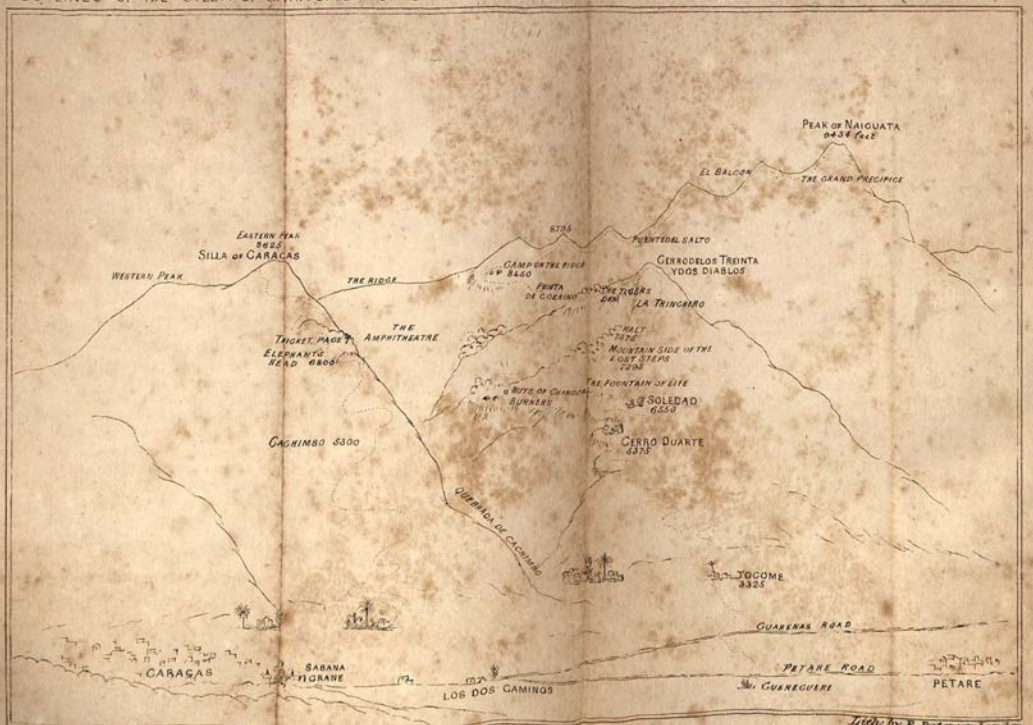
NOTE.

[Since this work went to press General Francisco Linares Alcantara has been (constitutionally) elected President of the Republic of Venezuela; to succeed General Antonio Guzman Blanco, whose term of office had expired.]

OUTLINES OF THE SILLA OF CARACAS AND THE PEAK OF NAIGUATA FROM THE VALLEY OF CARACAS (S. SIDE)



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ERRATA.

VOL. II.

Page 1, lines 6 and 8, *for* "Cagigal," *read* "Cajigal."
,, 8, footnote, *for* "Cagigal," *read* "Cajigal."
,, 163, lines 13 and 16, *for* "Paredes," *read* "Parades."
,, 164, line 18, *for* "arquebus," *read* "arquebuse."
,, 171, line 11, *for* "*dividivi*," *read* "*dividive.*"
,, 239, line 33, *for* "Carabelleda," *read* "Caraballeda."
,, 241, line 35, *for* "Gay laussacia," *read* "Gaylaussacia."
,, 278, line 41, *for* "Licencido," *read* "Licenciado."

THE LAND OF BOLIVAR.

CHAPTER I.

THE ASCENT OF THE SILLA OF CARÁCAS.

THE first recorded ascent of the Silla of Carácas is that of Humboldt at the beginning of the present century.* Since then it has been climbed by various enterprising Venezuelans, and by some foreign visitors. The most notable ascents have been those of Cagigal,† Lisboa,‡ and Dr. Ernst, the last named having followed up the botanical researches of Humboldt and Cagigal, and made a very complete study of the mountain in its scientific aspect.

To reach the somewhat dangerous summit of the Silla has always been considered an event in the capital, and when it was known that another ascent was contemplated, it gave rise to a good deal of innocent gossip.

* See *Personal Narratives of Travel to the Equinoctial Regions of America*, by Alexander von Humboldt.

† See Appendix K.

‡ The title-page of the work in which the ascent is described will be found in Appendix Q., No. 149.

Early in the afternoon of April 6th, 1872, our party started in a coach from Carácas by the *Camino Real del Oriente* (Main-Eastern Road), for Los Dos Caminos, at which place we duly arrived and waited for the remainder of those who had promised to join us. I took the opportunity which the delay afforded of sketching the Silla and the Naiguatá from behind the *posada*, as it seemed the best point from which to obtain a comparative view of these two mountain giants of the coast range.

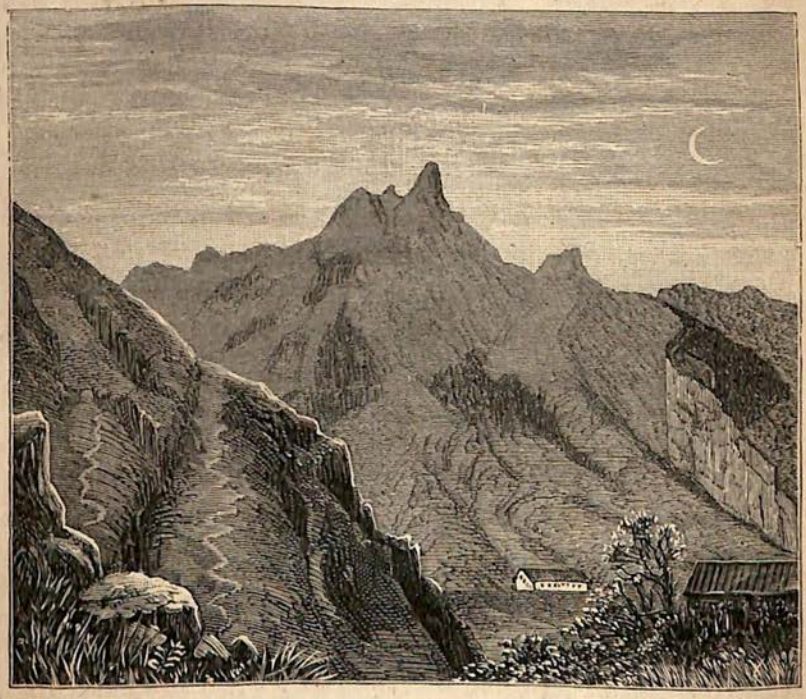
Our company, consisting of Doctor Simon Vaamonde; General Luciano Urdaneta; Señores Anton Goering and Manuel Montserrat; the author; two servants (Jesus Anoco and Juan Hernandez); and a dog named "Curazao," being now complete, we started for the Silla. Our body-guard, consisting of the two individuals, Jesus and John, and faithful "Curazao," proceeded on foot, whilst the remainder went on mules. We were detained in starting by Goering, who would not leave without a bottle of whisky, which he said was absolutely necessary for the preservation of any insects he might find on the excursion.

Reaching the base of an abrupt and steep spur of the mountain jutting out into the valley of Carácas, we commenced its ascent by proceeding along a winding zigzag bridle-path, or natural staircase, to Cachimbo—the last habitation on the way to the summit—where we intended to take up our quarters for the night.

The sun was hovering on the verge of the western horizon, and his rays threw across the sky a glow of

redness which hung over Carácas like a blood-red banner, a fitting emblem of that anarchy which for generations has desolated this beautiful land, and "forward flung to Aïdes full many a gallant spirit of heroes." Goering, full of artistic enthusiasm, detained

SILLA. NAIGUATÁ.



NAIGUATÁ AND THE SILLA FROM DOS CAMINOS.

the party, and a few quick dashes of his brush bare record on paper that he had caught the proper inspiration, and fixed this glorious vision, "curtained with clouded red." Our appreciation of the painter and his work was somewhat damped, however, when he concluded with Ruskinian force and faithfulness

an eloquent peroration on art in general and the late sunset in particular, with a specimen of prosaic materialism unworthy of genius, by estimating the value of his *Sunset on the way to Cachimbo* in pounds, shillings, and pence.

At a height of 4265 feet above the level of the sea the colour of the soil changed from red to dark brown, and in localities where the face of the hill had been burned, grass had begun to spring up, receiving no sustenance from rain or moisture in the ground, but only from the heavy clouds seen so frequently sweeping over the sides of the mountain. It was past 7 P.M. when we approached Cachimbo; the shades of night had crept on so fast and so imperceptibly that in the latter part of our journey it was so dark that we had enough to do to grope our way in safety along the perilous path. A light shining through the darkness showed that our goal was near, and our shout brought a quick response.

The house which we eventually reached was situated on the top of a spur or shoulder of the mountain, at an altitude of 5300 feet, the occupants doing a thriving retail provision business with the charcoal-burners who inhabited these heights. Dr. Vaamonde's presence insured us a flattering reception, and the best of everything that Cachimbo could furnish was at our disposal.

There were some terrible stories told that night of many who had taken refuge in the surrounding hills during the revolution, and some of whom, it was said, perished of hunger. Not far from our residence were

found the remains of a man and a tiger who had both fallen in mortal combat.

We were waited upon by the daughter of the house, a handsome girl whom Goering christened the "Flor de Cachimbo." Dr. Vaamonde with a merry twinkle in his eye introduced her as one of his patients. The doctor was a universal favourite, and practised not for the sake of "filthy lucre," but for the amelioration of the woes of suffering humanity. If all his patients were like the pretty *Flor*, then in this, as in other cases, virtue is its own exceeding great reward. We were all somewhat jealous of the evident partiality shown by our young hostess for Vaamonde, but in truth our irrepressible exhilaration and boisterous joviality contrasted unfavourably with his gentler deportment. Our animal spirits were exuberant; even after we had climbed into the little loft which was to serve for a dormitory, the fun went on unbroken, and it was late before the conversation was silenced by sleep.

The following morning we were roused by half-past five, and found the air so raw that we were glad to group ourselves around the kitchen fire. The sensation of cold was a novelty, and not altogether a disagreeable one; its effect was bracing, and certainly our nerves needed strengthening for the work before us. The physical inactivity naturally resulting from a prolonged residence in the tropics is not favourable to the training that would have rendered our undertaking an easier one than it proved to be. Having breakfasted, and been encouraged by the

good wishes of our host and hostesses, we sallied forth, and as the barometer had risen during the night, we had the prospect of a very bright day.

The morning cleared up apace. North of us was a great amphitheatre formed by the surrounding hills, with a narrow outlet into the plains below through the Quebrada de Cachimbo. The large valley of Carácas, with its branches of Petare, Antímano, and El Valle, lay before us dotted with luxuriant patches of grass and cane, whilst more distinctly visible were the coffee plantations and the long irregular wave-like lines of trees marking the meandering course of the river Guaire. Fleecy clouds drifted in all directions, here hiding one valley and there opening up another to our view in quick transition. As we toiled along at the first rise we tried to keep up our spirits and to imagine that we were near the top, although the anxiously-watched barometer contradicted Hope's flattering tale. Having accomplished the work on the first slope, we were disappointed to find another still more severe in its aspect, with one side steeply falling off to the valley, and on the north forming a precipice down into the Quebrada de Cachimbo. Several times we were obliged to lie down from fatigue, which a short rest, however, soon dissipated.

Goering was in good form, and took advantage of these breaks in the journey to search for insects. Road there was none, not even a trail, and our way now lay along the edge of the precipice; to the right we espied a dense clump of vegetation indicating the

proximity of water. Thither we sent our *peones* to fill the flasks which had become by this time almost empty. On gaining a footing on another shoulder of the Silla, our disappointment was heightened to see a higher one afar off, which we were provokingly informed was not the last; and to reach it a descent of a very rough character had to be made. We named the height just surmounted the Elephant's Head, which at a distance it greatly resembled. We stood for a time looking in the direction we had still to climb; some of our party beginning to express their fears that further progress was impossible, and many were the propositions made to evade the steep face by flank movements. At this point Goering became ill, and was only brought round by the timely discovery of a new and interesting species of bug. To this entomological prize he gave a sesquipedalian name, but as it was a little, nasty, ugly-looking, *noisy* insect, we, according to the regulations of the old jest-book, called it a *hum*bug.

In a shady nook at the foot of the Elephant's Head we rested for a brief space, exclaiming with the poet: "Welcome, ye shades; ye bowery thickets, hail!" We were getting tired, and our courage was on the ebb, but after partaking of refreshments, including a few drops of a very common stimulant, prescribed medicinally, things assumed a more cheerful aspect, and courageously we sprang from the ground with nerves braced for another attempt, and were quickly again in the order of march.

All the newly-found prowess was needed, for the

ascent of the next spur was exceedingly difficult, and we had to make headway by a zigzag course, using hands and feet; in fact, a good deal of it was done on all fours. This work accomplished, the reward quickly followed, for the undoubted peak was seen a short distance ahead; and spurring on our wearied bodies, the final climb, though a stiff one, was made with a rush, and an exultant hurrah soon after told that the goal had been reached.

We gained the summit of the Silla at 11 A.M., having ascended 3233 feet in less than four hours. The temperature was 75°, and by a rough calculation we made the height to be 8833 feet.*

We were glad to take refuge under the friendly shade of some stunted trees growing near the top, for the enjoyment of a quiet *siesta*. On awaking, the provisions were distributed with a reckless prodigality, which we repented of before the morrow's dawn; but the water was measured out very accurately to each, our stock consisting of less than a gallon. Some hours were quickly passed in botanizing, drawing, sleeping, and entomologizing. Goering gave us no peace in the prosecution of his studies in the latter-named department, for he was "death" on all insects, and the most notorious of lion-hunters was never more enthusiastic in the capture of the king of beasts than was our naturalist in that of his insignificant little game. Then for half an hour we were all hard at work gathering wood for a grand bonfire.

* The height of the Silla, according to the mean of several careful observations made by Codazzi and Cagigal, is 8625 feet.

Varied and beautiful was the view far below our feet. The most striking object was the Caribbean Sea, its surface at times seemingly smooth as glass, at others partially hidden from our view by dense masses of fog and cloud drifting slowly over its bosom, and assuming in their erratic and vapoury course rare and fantastic appearances of icy peaks on vast mountains of snow, whose bases were in the ocean. The little village of Juan Dias, although far away on the beach, seemed as if only a stone's throw from us, and strong was the temptation to roll a large rock down the precipitous sides of the mountain, and watch it leap from point to point until it should reach the village 8000 feet beneath. We refrained from this, however, thinking the possible destruction of life and property might prove too great a sacrifice for a gratification so childish.

To the east rose the high peak of the Naiguatá, appearing to defy the most gigantic efforts of climbing, though in spite of this I determined to be the first to plant my foot upon its crest if resolute endurance could avail to win success. With the binocle the journey was done in half an hour! There were difficulties visible, but these I felt could be surmounted, although some of the places had an ugly look. This contemplation was broken into by my comrades, who all declared the Naiguatá to be impregnable; but

> "The distant mountains that uprear
> Their frowning foreheads to the skies,
> Are crossed by pathways, that appear
> As we to higher levels rise."

At 3.45 P.M. the thermometer registered 72°, at 5 P.M. 63°, and at sunset 60°.

Now came the evening meal, and with it the knowledge that we were reduced to very short commons; on our smoking wood fire coffee was made, not only for that repast, but to serve through the night, which promised to be bitterly cold. Our cooking utensils consisted of a kettle and an empty sardine tin; in the latter we made a substantial soup,—Liebig and water,—and the only fault it had was that of not going far enough. So keen were the appetites of all that the entire stock of provisions was exhausted at this sitting; from lack of a sufficient appreciation of the necessity of plenty of animal food on such an excursion, those who attended to the commissariat department had sadly failed in their duty.

At 8 P.M. we lit our bonfire, and for an hour were engaged in sending up rockets, which we rightly surmised would astonish the natives and the concourse on the *Plaza* at Carácas listening to the military music.

We chose places for sleep on the dank and dirty ground, and had to experience some difficulty in finding comfortable locations. Two joined at a hole to shelter them from the wind, which blew all night with relentless fury. The surface was damp and our blankets soon got wet, the dew and a smart shower of rain spoiling our night's sleep completely. I changed my quarters several times, and at last got in between the two attendants. The bonfire having been extinguished by the rain, we cleared some of the smouldering embers away, and found the warm steam-

ing earth comparatively comfortable for the time, at least, though somewhat suggestive of old cramps and aches.

Next morning (April 8th) we all shivered up from our couches, and our cheerfulness was not increased by the lively reflection that our entire provisions for breakfast consisted of two pints of thick coffee. This we dealt out in a semi-liquid state, so that those endowed with vivid imaginations might fancy themselves consuming both food and drink.

We looked around: the landscape on all sides had disappeared entirely. The sun was rising behind the bleak peak of the Naiguatá, and to judge by the scene we might have been transplanted to the frigid zone. All the valley of Carácas seemed filled with snow, and far away to the Tuy rose continuous chains of white-capped mountains; the Caribbean Sea, an infinite lake of ice, with here and there vast icebergs, spires, and peaks of fantastic shape jutting from it; to the south-east, glaciers, precipices, and frozen rivers and seas linked together in wild beauty: the cold air rushing up from the valley as from regions of thick-ribbed ice aided the glamour which had been thrown over the scene. It required less imagination to think that what our eyes beheld was ice and snow, than to accept the fact that they were simply pictures limned by the great cloud-painter.* But soon—

> "The veil was lifted, and below
> Glowed the rich valley and the river's flow."

* "On some isolated mountain at daybreak, when the night mists first rise from off the plain, watch their white and lakelike fields, as they

We commenced the descent at 6 A.M. with the temperature at 60°, the landscape changing before us at every step. We had to proceed cautiously, sometimes on hands and feet, whilst occasionally, in spite of cries of "Wait a bit!" two or three in anything but elegant attitudes descended at a quicker rate than was agreeable, setting safety at defiance, and running the risk of rolling down hundreds of feet into the misty morning vapours. When we were above the top of the amphitheatre of Cachimbo, the temptation was too much for one of the party, who pushed some large fragments of rock over the hillside, and we all watched them bound and rebound until they leapt over the precipice and finally disappeared into the clouds below. Above the clouds we could see the curling smoke rising from the houses of the charcoal-burners on the slopes of the Naiguatá.

On the whole, the descent was marked by no particular occurrence, and we arrived at Cachimbo at 9.30 A.M., where we found a temperature of 80°. Here we had a long rest, and then mounting our mules returned to Carácas, which we reached in the evening.

float in level bays and winding gulfs about the islanded summits of the lower hills, untouched yet by more than dawn, colder and more quiet than a windless sea under the moon of midnight; watch when the first sunbeam is sent upon the silver channels, how the foam of their undulating surface parts, and passes away, and down under their depths the glittering city and green pasture lie like Atlantis, between the white paths of winding rivers; the flakes of light falling every moment faster and broader among the starry spires, as the wreathed surges break and vanish above them, and the confused crests and ridges of the dark hills shorten their grey shadows upon the plain."—RUSKIN.

All along the road we heard that the bonfire, and the rockets sent up from the Silla, had caused great excitement in the State of Bolivar; many thought them to have been signals for the rising of the Blues, and in some places the Government troops were actually ordered out. Others were reminded by it of an old prophecy that the Avila (the ancient name of the Silla) was to become a volcano and destroy Carácas. Our pyrotechnic display had been witnessed by an assembly of about sixty thousand;—*Todo el mundo y su mujer* (All the world and his wife) having turned out to see the burning fagots flaming on the crest of the Avila and throwing out "bolts of fire." All this was opportune, as the capital was just then rather short of excitement, and the *Plaza* on the night in question was crowded with gazers at the unexpected sight.

A few days after our ascent another was made by my enterprising young friend Lisboa, but the fire and the rockets this time created no excitement, as they lacked the charm of novelty.

CHAPTER II.

THE ASCENT OF THE NAIGUATÁ.*

PART I.

THE START.

"If any yet be so foolhardy,
T' expose themselves to vain jeopardy,
If they come wounded off and lame,
No honour's got by such a maim."—BUTLER.

THE chain of mountains striking off at an almost right angle from the great range of the Andes near Barquisimeto, and extending along the shore in an easterly direction until it finally disappears in Cabo Codera, presents two great heights near the valley wherein stands the capital of Venezuela of which this range, indeed, forms a grand natural defence. These heights are the Silla of Carácas, and the Peak of Naiguatá. The latter being the most distant, and nearly in the same line, is not seen from the city. Viewed from the south side, the Silla, on the contrary, is the most striking and majestic part of the landscape which forms the background of the town. Its great

* Messrs. Leopoldo Terrero, Anton Goering, and Ramon Bolet have had the kindness to place at my disposal for this work the information they gathered in the expedition.

The thermometer was always that of Fahrenheit, and the observations were taken in the shade; those relating to height were made with an aneroid barometer (No. 620, J. Stewart, 66 Strand, London), and are given in English feet.

height, its strange form, and the capricious changes of light and shade playing upon its brow—when not lost in thick masses of cloud—produce in the beholder who for the first time admires its imposing grandeur a strong desire to ascend the summit, in order to enjoy the sight of the extensive panorama which it commands.

From the crest of the Silla the high peak of the Naiguatá rose boldly to view, and the walled-in appearance of its flanks provoked not only curiosity but an enthusiastic desire to overcome its traditional difficulty of ascent. The Naiguatá claims a proud pre-eminence over all the heights of this region, it towers aloft with a majesty defying rivalry.

My companions in the excursion to the Silla assured me that the Naiguatá was inaccessible. It was a firm belief in Carácas that its high peak would never be trodden by human foot. There was even an old tradition which proclaimed its impregnability. The ferocity of the animals hidden in the forests surrounding it was a theme upon which the good people of the capital were positively eloquent, and, moreover, I was assured that all those who had attempted to scale the Naiguatá had been compelled to give up their adventurous design from its absolutely rugged impassability. *

No mountain of the like altitude rises so precipitously from the sea; but these difficulties only

* "An attempt was made in 1823 to conquer the Naiguatá, by a La Guayra merchant, and a large party, twenty-five in all, well provided. They commenced the ascent, but after eight or nine days' effort they had only reached the foot of the peak, where they shot many tigers, but were forced by want of water to give up the enterprise and return unsuccessful. One of the party was thought to have been lost, but he made his way back to La Guayra in about fifteen days."

strengthened my desire to make the ascent of the only peak of the coast range that still remained unconquered. In a country so full of daring and valour as Venezuela, —the land where the great War of Independence of South America first began—I was desirous of maintaining that reputation for pluck and fearlessness which Englishmen have earned by a thousand more courageous deeds. There is a pleasure even in peril and hardship, the extent of which no one can more fully realize and appreciate than he who labours hard to reach some hitherto untrodden height. I determined, therefore, to be the first human being to set foot upon the summit of this highly respectable mountain.

[The relative heights of the various mountains and towns in the State of Bolivar are shown in the accompanying sketch.]

That the mere love of adventure was not the sole motive may well be supposed, and in forming a party to join me, the selection was made with a view to gathering information respecting the Naiguatá that might hereafter prove to be a welcome addition to the physical history of a country to which I was grateful for a hearty welcome and unbounded hospitality. The desire to join the expedition was freely expressed by many a Venezuelan and foreigner in Carácas, but as nearly all of them considered the experiment would prove abortive, few really cared to throw in their lot with us. But for the risk of a fall and the fear of the ridicule which always clings to an unsuccessful adventure, the Naiguatá party would have been very formidable.

IDEAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE PRINCIPAL MOUNTAINS & TOWNS OF THE CORDILLERA OF THE COAST OF VENEZUELA

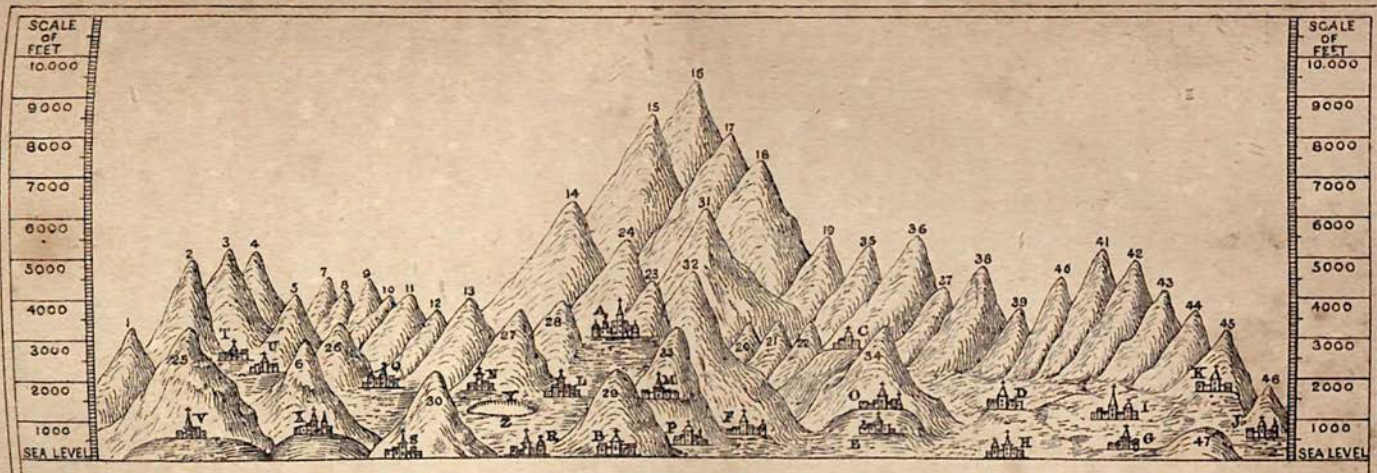


TABLE OF HEIGHTS

	Feet.
1 Tucuragua	3291
2 Madera	5004
3 Picacho	5269
4 Santa Maria	5197
5 Temerla	4134
6 Chirgua	2999
7 Hilaria	4554
8 Punto Cabello	4183
9 Patanemo	4469
10 Turiamo	4085
11 Ocumare	4114
12 Choroni	3717
13 Tamaya	3973
14 Palmar	6375
15 Silla	8209
16 NAIGUATA	9430
17 Cares	8091
18 Caculo	7431
19 Capaya	5486
20 Araguita	3373
21 Guaime	3432
22 Mariches	3373
23 Anauco y Guayabo	4387
24 Tegues	5436
25 Teramuto	3991
26 Cuipa	3389
27 Palmar	3701
28 Cerro Azul	3895
29 Yuma	2195
30 Baul	2195
31 Platilla	6188
32 Flores	4672
33 Morro de San Juan	3245
34 Morro de San Sebastian	3265
35 Pao de Sarate	5240
36 Guaraima	5479
37 Loma del Hierro	4278
38 Roncador	4800
39 Consumidero	3750
40 Loma del Viento	4538
41 Palomita	5197
42 Alta Gracia	4938
43 Soledad	4295
44 Guanape	3701
45 Unare	3291
46 Galero	1864
47 Tacusipano	850
A CARACAS	3019
B La Guayra	26
C Petare	2736
D Guarenas	1266
E Santa Lucia	610
F Ocumare del Tuy	699
G Caucagua	249
H Rio Chico	26
I Orituco	1027
J Chaguaramas	558
K Victoria	1690
L Turmero	1522
M Maracay	1480
N Cura	1703
O San Sebastian	1234
P Calabozo	328
Q Valencia	1824
R Ocumare	69
S Puerto Cabello	7
T Nirgua	2523
U Montalban	2195
V San Carlos	581
X Pao	666
Y Surface Lake Valencia	1417
Z Bed of Lake of Valencia	1096

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Lith. by R. Paterson, London.

I wished, in fact, to give to the project the character of a scientific exploration, as well as that of a pleasure excursion, and the companions who in this true spirit of enterprise joined me were—

1. General Leopoldo Terrero, whose good judgment, analytical powers of observation, and practical knowledge, made his company of great value to us.

2. Señor Ramon Bolet, a young artist, whose merit, but for his early death, would have made his name known far beyond the boundaries of his fatherland. He looked forward with delight to the prospect of placing upon canvas the rich landscape which we knew there was to be seen from the summit. His rare talents only required to be brought into more intimate acquaintance with nature and her beauties.

3. Mr. Anton Goering, corresponding member of the Zoological Society, to whom a new field of labour presented itself. He is not only an experienced zoologist, but an able and faithful artist; and his delight at the prospect of investigating the natural phenomena of these virgin hills was great. To behold that which none but the Creator had hitherto looked down upon was in itself a strong inducement for him to join our party.

4. Mr. Gustave Adolphe Hûbel, a mining engineer, who gladly welcomed this opportunity of digesting a new slice of the earth's crust. From his geological knowledge we hoped for aid in identifying the different strata we were to encounter.

5. Dr. Simon Vaamonde, who, beyond the ordinary scientific interest attaching to our excursion, would doubtless feel that with only ordinary luck he could

with certainty count upon some broken arm, some tiger-torn limb, some poisoned foot, perhaps even a dead body to deal with before he found his way home.

6. Señor Henrique Lisboa, whose remembrance of that section of the South American continent which had given him birth enabled him to compare the characteristics of the mountains of Brazil with those of the State of Bolivar. Lisboa having been in several excursions with me, I looked forward to his company with great pleasure, as his wit, and an unbounded spirit of contradiction leading him to take the opposition side in all arguments, would help to enliven the journey and encourage us to get gaily over many parts of the road which might seem much longer but for his presence.

Mounted on mules and preceded by four pioneers, who conducted our provisions on a Jerusalem pony, we left Carácas on the 21st of April 1872, at 1.30 P.M.—with the thermometer at 85°. As we passed through the town many turned out to watch the departure of what was considered the most Quixotic expedition ever undertaken. We stayed for some time at the village of Sabana Grande and rested in the *casa de campo,* occupied by M. Saillard, the French Consul, where we were joined by Lisboa from his suburban retreat close by. Starting off once more we quickly arrived at Los Dos Caminos (The Two Roads), 3050 feet above the level of the sea, where we stayed an hour beneath the cool corridors of the *posada.*

Between Sabana Grande and Los Dos Caminos, on the right, on a knoll some little distance from the road,

stand the ruins of an old mansion, said to have been the residence, for a brief period at the beginning of this century, of Baron von Humboldt. It was destroyed by the great earthquake of 1812, and is now known as the Humboldt Ruins. From this place a good view of the Silla and the Naiguatá can be obtained.

Here we added to our store of provisions, and gave the requisite orders to the eight guides and attendants for the proper equipment of the expedition. I was determined that whatever might happen as to water, all should, at least, have sufficient to eat; the unpleasant experiences of the trip to the Silla having taught the disadvantages of "short commons" in mountain climbing.

As it is probably their only chance of a brief and passing fame, a list is here given of the names of our little army of *locusts*. They were Miguel and Julian Rivero, Ambrosio Mesa, and Meliton Cuervo, guides; Antonio Pacheco, attendant of Lisboa; José Jesus Sanoja, attendant of Vaamonde; Juan José Guillen, attendant of Bolet; and my own servant Juan Evangelista Fernández. The last-named went very unwillingly. His mind was full of dismal forebodings. He felt ill, and only came with us from the fear of being discharged from the services of, perhaps, a too easy master. I cannot say that "John the Evangelist" was of much use either as a pointer of paths or as a bearer of burdens. He was, however, an excellent meat-and-drink consumer. From all of which we may deduce this useful lesson:

never take an unwilling person on a mountaineering expedition.

Mounted once more on our mules we took the road to the right leading to Petare, and penetrated the beautiful sugar-cane plantation of Güeregüere, the property of La Señora Vaamonde. This was considered one of the best-managed and most fruitful estates in the valley. The reduction works were in excellent order, and a credit to her son the Doctor, who had charge of the hacienda. It was six in the evening when we arrived at this lady's pleasant mansion, where we were to pass the night. The hospitality displayed by our truly amiable hostess was so unbounded as to lay us under a load of gratitude which this acknowledgment does not in the least degree lessen.

The last rays of evening light were employed in pointing our glasses towards the Peak of Naiguatá. Boldly it seemed to defy us with its impassable aspect. The fading twilight melting into the first shadows of night made the proud mountain stand out distinctly against the sky, a great sombre mass, seeming half-rock and half-phantom. Darkness forced us, alas! too soon to quit the view. Merrily glided on the hours preceding sleep in listening to the anecdotes related by our guides and attendants. Half-crediting, half-discrediting, we eagerly hearkened to these self-deluded mortals as they, in a rough, forcible, and energetic manner, chanted the tales of the Naiguatá, and the wonders nature was to disclose to our eyes on the morrow. Had we believed all, we should have expected to meet tigers at every turn and snakes at

every foot of our journey. One of these grim narratives had relation to an accident which occurred at the terrible precipice known as the "Tiger's Leap."

Some peasants, a man, his wife, and child, accompanied by a friend, were riding along this dangerous path; the ledge only admitting of Indian file, the woman with her child in her arms being in the middle. The husband had got some distance ahead, the friend behind stayed to light his cigar, leaving the woman for a short time to pursue her way alone. Having got his smoking apparatus into order, he spurred on his quadruped and speedily overtook the husband.

"Where is your wife?" was his inquiry.

"She has not passed, she is behind," replied the husband.

"She is not behind," said the *compadre*. A terrible fear entered into their hearts; and they knew that the unfortunate woman must have fallen over the precipice.

They turned back to the "Tiger's Leap," and there, down, down hundreds of feet below, lay the shapeless masses of humanity and horse-flesh that but a few moments before were in the full vigour of life and health.

As they stood spell-bound at this terrible sight a feeble cry reached their ears, and they saw the child lying in a little patch of vegetation on the very edge of the precipice. The darkness and terror of death cannot destroy a mother's love, and even in the agony of that descent into the cruel grave below she had

with the strength of despair thrown her babe into its haven of safety.

Then there was a story of an expedition which set out to conquer the peak—and failed. The mountaineers lost their way, and had exhausted both provisions and water. There was no help for it but to camp out all night. The leader suffered little from the exposure, but next morning on looking round he was horrified to see that all the members of his party were from cold in a state of stupefaction. He took them one by one and rolled them down the sides of a steep hill. This was rough treatment certainly, but it succeeded. A more bruised band of wretches was never witnessed, still none of these mangled objects of humanity made on that occasion an ill-conditioned exit.

No doubt in the legends we heard that evening the narrators exaggerated the dangers, if not from a desire to fill us with fears, at least to give interest and dark colour to the prospect before us.

We discussed also the question of the route that should be taken, and decided to follow the advice of Dr. Vaamonde, which was, to ascend by the side of the mountain opposite to the Silla, following the road as far as it went, and afterwards by the ascending angles leading to the crest of the ridge. It was evident that our track would in a great measure be chosen by circumstances, we could only keep following up one ridge until it joined another.

Backwards and forwards to Petare in the interest of the commissariat department went the pioneers. For an amount of money agreed upon between us they

were to furnish their own provisions for the journey, whilst our supplies were to be held in special reserve. When I saw their sack next morning it presented beggarly proportions when compared with our own. Truly they threw in their lot with their employers, but it was somewhat of a one-sided partnership that they so cunningly thrust upon us.

The sleeping arrangements for the night were varied in their character. I had a comfortable bed, some of the party lay on sofas, whilst Goering stretched himself on the floor with his saddle-bags for a pillow. "He that is low need fear no fall," and he was soon soundly sleeping the sleep of the just. Indeed, the whole company, being aware that there remained only two or three hours in which to rest, showed a laudable disposition to make the most of the flying moments by giving audible indications of vigorous slumber.

At 4.40 A.M., on the 22d, we sallied forth, fifteen persons in all. The thermometer stood at 62°. Intersecting the Guarenas road, and tracing out a course in a northerly direction, an hour's ride brought us to Tócome, the estate of General Santos Jurado, situated on a gentle rise at the foot of the mountain, 3325 feet above sea-level. The temperature had increased to 69°. The bridle-path behind this estate is extremely steep, and full of crevices produced by the waters in the rainy season precipitating themselves with great impetus from the sides of the mountain. It has been opened out by the charcoal-burners, who transport their produce along it on the backs of asses. These animals have acquired an extraordinary dexterity in

avoiding danger, and they walk on the narrowest foot-path as securely as a horse would trot on a turnpike road. At this point, after crossing the little river Tócome, the ascent fairly began. For some distance the road was only difficult for our mules on account of its steepness; it tried their mettle, however, and made them pant and blow at a furious rate. Some of the company thought it prudent to dismount at places where the ledge was hardly broader than a curbstone, and where a false step would have given a premature finale to our expedition. Still the mule of this country fully merits the great confidence reposed in it, and in some spots—

> "Where hardly a human foot could pass,
> Or a human heart would dare"—

I confess I felt safer on its back than when walking; so great is the skill and steadiness displayed in picking a way along these dangerous slopes. Where a descent had to be made the extreme steepness of the trail became really hazardous, threatening our lives, and compelling repeated dismounts in the most perilous places. It would have been, however, much more to my taste to have dispensed with the mule altogether, were it not that I was anxious to husband my strength for the unknown regions above, and for the final contest with the Peak.

Fifteen minutes after we had begun the ascent we reached a height of 3725 feet, and the temperature lowered to 63°. By six o'clock we had gained 530 feet more, and were 4255 feet high, with the thermo-

meter indicating 62°. The fresh morning and the pure mountain air filled our minds with that child-like gaiety which is nothing more than the contagion of nature's joy when she first espies Aurora's glimmering rays, whose absence she has wept among the shadows. In such moments the burden of years seems to roll from off one's shoulders, the voice gains strength, the step is quickened if we walk afoot, we gallop if on horseback, we feel a pleasure in being wet by the dew, we are keenly susceptible to external nature; our bodies long for movement, and the road seems short, however toilsome it may be.

A wild spirit of hilarity possessed us, and our harsh shouts echoed through the foot-hills of the Naiguatá. Stimulated, perhaps, by our gaiety, the animals progressed rapidly along the acute zigzags. From the outer angles we could talk to each other in spite of the long intervening road-space between each person. On our right rose mountains looking as if they would fall upon us; on our left, steep precipices threatening instant destruction. Going along the mountain-side we came out upon a spot containing a few square yards of table-land. It was not what might be exactly called a plain, but the nearest approach to level ground we had encountered since we left the valley, and here we dismounted to rest our beasts. The sweat was running from their smoking flanks, and their short heavy gasps for breath showed how great was their fatigue.

From foot to ridge, shadows covered all and struggled with the daybreak, but at the first ray of

the sun behind the interposing hill stretching out like a band of dark green, we saw the bald summit of the Silla. In appearance it was not unlike a Phrygian cap; the sun had touched its tip with gold, but all around the rest of nature lay cold, dark, and dormant. All the drawing-books were unpacked, and some daring brushes wetted paper, whilst the mules, to whom the grandeur of the scenery signified nothing, amused themselves by nibbling the tufts of grass refreshed by the dew.

On our immediate right ran the river Tócome, the windings it made in order to reach the valley glittering like the rings of a silver serpent; on the left the broken ground skirting the Silla; and on the east, rising above us, the crags and precipices which form the Naiguatá's most impenetrable defence. Towards the south, the mists covered the valleys of the Tuy completely, and it was in vain we tried to make out a single detail of this most beautiful garden of the State of Bolivar. North-west of us, dotted with the huts of charcoal-burners, was the great amphitheatre formed by the Silla, the Naiguatá, and the connecting ridge between, all sloping down to the Quebrada de Cachimbo.

We continued the ascent, and presently met with a workman who pointed out a precipice where, a fortnight before, a poor fellow had lost his life. We were now 4865 feet high—the temperature 61°. After a few minutes' rest we took the road to the right, leaving to the left the charcoal-burners' trail leading to the amphitheatre. At eight o'clock in the morning Cerro Duarte (5375 feet) was reached; it is a most beautiful

domain, separated from the Silla by a profound abyss fearful to contemplate. Many a heartfelt wish for the peace and happiness of the pretty "Flor de Cachimbo" was wafted over the dark and frowning chasm dividing us from her and her mountain home. In this place the temperature had lowered to 60°. From this great elevation the mountains circling the valley of Carácas began to flatten to our sight, and Antímano, El Valle, Petare, and a few villages of the Tuy, which appeared to be coming to life again though still half-wrapped in mist, formed, with the variegated and symmetrical corn-fields and plantations of the neighbourhood, a landscape delightfully picturesque and ravishingly beautiful.

CHAPTER III.

THE ASCENT OF THE NAIGUATÁ.

PART II.

THE RISE TO THE RIDGE.

"But, those attained, we tremble to survey
The growing labours of the lengthened way;
The increasing prospect tires our wandering eyes,
Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise!"—POPE.

WHILST we were busy sight-seeing, our host, Pio Berroteran, a worthy hard-working farmer who owned Cerro Duarte, aided his *esposa* in the preparations of the *desayuno*. Berroteran with his wife's consent—given with fear and trembling—decided to accompany us on the expedition, for, though he had done plenty of mountaineering, he had never made the ascent of the Naiguatá. He was a noble-looking fellow, with honesty engraven on every lineament of his tranquil face. With him we felt safer than with the guides we had brought from Carácas, over whom he was at once appointed commander-in-chief. It was thought on all sides that his counsel would do us golden service, and that our chances of success were now very much improved.

Turning our backs on the *meseta* or little table-land

of Cerro Duarte, the stout-hearted animals bore us up the next steep rise without much evidence of exhaustion. At the hut of a charcoal-burner we found it necessary to leave them, as all vestige of road, path, track, or trail ended a short distance ahead. It was now nine o'clock, and we soon began to experience the disagreeable effects produced by the rays of the sun as it rose from behind the Naiguatá.

The provisions which the humble donkey had carried so far, with that fortitude peculiar to his docile race, were now transferred to the backs and shoulders of his bipedal brethren. What a happy day it will be for mountaineers when pack-animals can manage precipitously inclined slopes and sharp ascending angles! Then farewell to guides, "ye hungry wolves, adieu!" On a beast of burden food is not lost, but a guide, when he has robbed without limit and fed himself to repletion, can in a moment change his look, and appear as though he were perishing from hunger, when dying of plethora would better describe his condition.

The place where we left the animals we called *La Soledad* — The Solitude — not from its desert-like aspect alone, but because it was the name of the woman to whose charge they were committed.

I was much impressed by the contrast between the miserable hovel of the Señora Soledad and the comfortable dwelling graced by the presence of Madame Berroteran from whence we had just come. In the habitation of the tiller of the soil—a high farmer certainly—there were cleanliness, hospitality,

plenty, neatness, order, and comfort; but here, in this extreme outpost of civilization, this abomination of desolation, there were squalor, wretchedness, and piled-up misery, painful to behold; the misery which is the Nemesis of Ignorance and Idleness. Berroteran, with honest industry, made the kindly earth to bloom in fruits and flowers; the charcoal-burner only robbed her, and converted her fair scenes into a howling wilderness. Berroteran was the only one on those heights who devoted himself to agriculture, and he alone appeared to live in comfort. The others, who obtained a miserable pittance by the piecemeal destruction of these fine virgin forests, had the careworn marks of adversity stamped upon them. These locusts are gradually destroying the whole of the trees in order to supply the city of Caracas with charcoal and firewood. In a short time there will be no wood left, and then the valley will lose its rich vegetation and semi-tropical aspect. Deprived of the forests, the hills will not retain the moisture for gradual distribution during the dry season, and thus the source of the streams fertilizing the vales below will be dried up, and the now blooming garden converted into an arid waste.

Under the Spanish rule the Cordillera del Avila was regarded as the property of the state, and none were permitted to cut down the trees growing thereon. It is certainly bad policy to allow the rapid destruction of recent years to proceed unchecked. At least some Government precautions should be taken to enforce the planting of one or two fresh trees for

every one destroyed, which would have the effect of mitigating the evil.

To return to Soledad—the thermometer in the shade indicated 75°, and in the water 63°. The height was 6550 feet.

In this part the vegetation, although profuse, was sickly and stunted, due possibly to the fact of the charcoal-burners in this vicinity having almost stripped the mountain-sides of big timber.

Here I happened to see some wild strawberries and brambles, whose luscious fruits brought to memory sweet associations of early days. My heart felt moved by the reminiscences which now arose in the presence of a scene indescribably beautiful. Before me stretched an immense horizon, and beyond the impenetrable vaporous lines I looked, but looked in vain, for the land whence proceeded my gladsome recollections.

Though the mind fondly lingered with memories of the past, it was only for a moment, for there was work enough ahead to monopolize all the powers of mind and body for its due accomplishment.

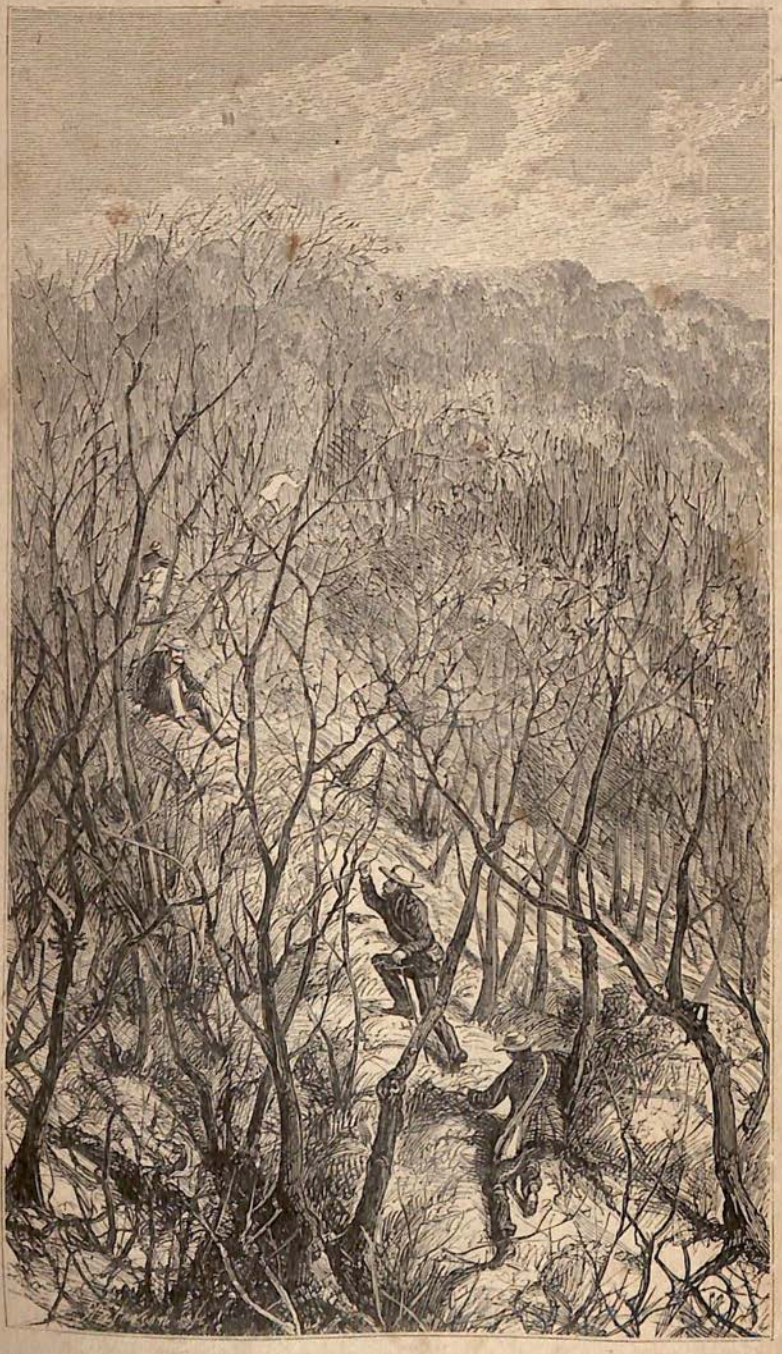
The strawberries and brambles found by the wayside served somewhat to mitigate the thirst produced by the heat and fatigue of ascending a very steep hillside. The greatest surprise was shown by the inhabitants of those places when they saw us following a direction which their few wants and little curiosity had never tempted them to essay. At the last of the huts or *rancherias* we passed, the woman who lived there stood at the door with some half-naked

children, showing in her face very plainly the fear she entertained that we were not in our sober senses.

It was curious to observe the caprices of vegetation; trees which a thousand yards lower down attained great bulk, were at this part but little developed, whilst on the contrary some of the plants assumed the proportions of small trees. Ferns of 20 to 30 feet high, with trunks of 3 feet in circumference, were common.

From a fine spring of water bordering a *terra incognita* we drew what was supposed to be our last supply. Three full *garrafones* or demi-johns constituted our sole stock and store. Precious then should have been these jars filled from *La Fuente de la Vida* in the estimation of every member of the company.

At the height of 6625 feet the temperature had risen to 76°, and at this point, "The Fountain of Life," the difficulties of the ascent, strictly speaking, began. We were entering upon an unknown land, there were no guide-books to show the route, no traditional information of former travellers to aid us; our course was a matter of mere conjecture, our future—doubtful. Dr. Vaamonde, claiming the right which science unquestionably vouchsafed to him of examining the state of our health before venturing further towards the summit, felt every individual pulse, probably to see if he could discover in the irregularity of its beating signs of fear. We had the pleasure of finding him perfectly satisfied with the examination, and the ceremony ended by his prescribing for both physician and patients a modest refreshment. We had looked some-



THE ATTACK ON EL CALVARIO.

what curiously at each other to see if there were any traces of faint-heartedness, but the white feather was nowhere visible.

We formed jocosely, but in sober earnest nevertheless, a resolution to conquer or die, and with a dash of enthusiasm entered upon the unexplored territory. Grasping with difficulty the trunks of trees, we commenced to ascend a frightfully steep mountain slope. No enticing gap appeared in the forest as it closed around us, but inch by inch, foot by foot, onward and upward, through a close and thick-set mass of vegetation, the guides with long-bladed knives in hand hacked out a passage for our feet. At short intervals we stopped to take breath, the conversation ceased entirely, fun and frolic had given place to quick loud breathings, telling of chests violently agitated with effort and fatigue. There were moments when we lost all hope of gaining the top of that interminable ladder. Deep gasps showed how much this ill-judged spurt—for we were all sadly out of training—had taxed the strength; and now and again a loud *Caramba!* from a Venezuelan, and a still louder equivalent expletive from a foreigner, spoke of some one having come to grief. More than one member of the party covered with perspiration fell exhausted to the ground.

The name of *El Calvario* was given to this mountain side. On helping the pioneers to carry the water we found the contents of the flasks greatly diminished, owing to the inconsiderate draughts they had taken, without reflecting that their employers also were

human beings, and therefore subject to the same wants and the same weaknesses. Most ungracious wretches were they—

> "Fit for mountains and the barbarous caves
> Where manners ne'er were preached!"

The footing of familiarity on which we had placed the guides was decidedly prejudicial to our comfort. We had allowed them a freedom that proved destructive to discipline and order. They were of course as ignorant as ourselves of the best route, and in fact served only to transport our provisions; and the manner in which they relieved themselves of the trouble of carrying full water-flasks forced us to take these precious treasures into our own charge.

The heat had increased, and although the altitude of 7295 feet had been attained, the thermometer keeping pace with it, now indicated 78°. At last we came to a place which had been reached by the great fire of 1868. The charred shrubs broke when we leaned against them in ascending, and the acclivity was so perpendicular, and the dry grass so slippery, that it seemed as if we were going upon ice and making one step forward to two steps backward. It was agreed upon to call this slope the *Cuesta de los Pasos Perdidos* (Mountain Side of the Lost Steps). We escaped hence by scrambling, with faces and hands as black as negroes, and, as the unpleasant struggle had not at all helped to put us in good temper, our appearances were grotesquely diabolical. My servant had to scrape the soles of my boots which had be-

come as smooth as glass; without this rasping process it would have been impossible to proceed except barefooted—a measure not to be thought of in a district abounding with insect life of a highly poisonous nature, and reported to be the asylum also of still more dangerous reptiles.

Here we held a consultation to decide if we should have breakfast (it was already eleven o'clock); but

THE BREAKFAST PARTY ON EL CALVARIO.

as the ground was very little adapted for the purpose, our position was even worse than that described in the rhyme—

> "I cannot sit or stand, the beggar cries,
> But if he speaks the truth, he surely lies!"

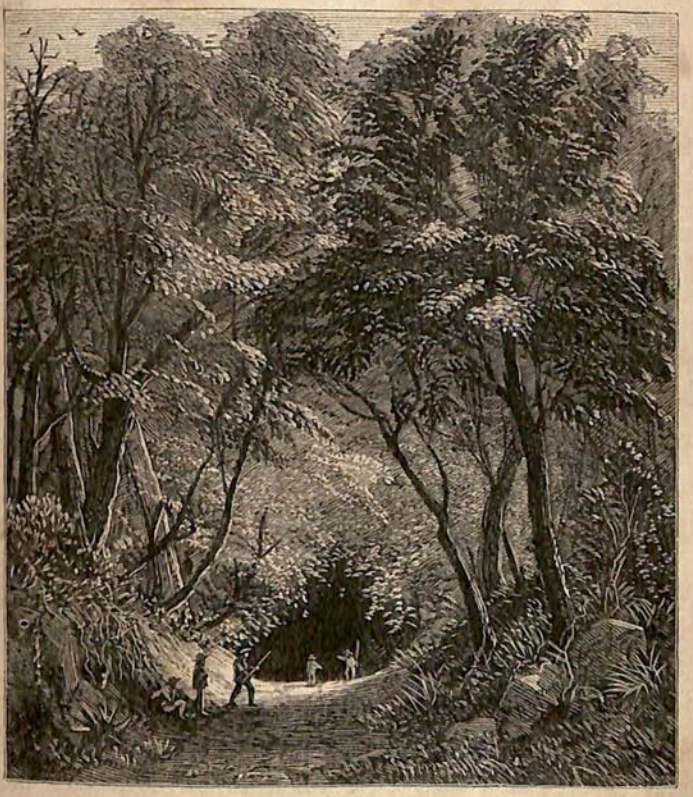
we resolved to go a little to the left, and there, reclining against some stocks of gramineous plants,

and under their grateful shade, my companions took a hasty breakfast. I did not join them, preferring to avail myself of the opportunity the time afforded to sleep off some of the fatigue rather than load myself with the weight of a few ounces of our precious stores. It was 11.35 A.M., and we had reached a height of 7575 feet.

In half an hour we set forth again, and twenty minutes afterwards arrived at the foot of a rock to which we gave the name of *La Trinchera* (The Trench). Imagining it to be a spur of the mountain which offered the most direct route up to the ridge, the climb was commenced. The way was long, rough, steep, and narrow; the foothold slight, and insecure, yet, in fifteen minutes we reached its summit, and to seat ourselves thereon all felt was a real triumph. The part of the mountain at which we had now arrived deserved baptizing with a distinct name, one of the party therefore called it the *Cerro de los treinta y dos diablos* (Mountain of the thirty-two devils); being more proud of our endurance than desirous to be complimentary—he considering that if each of the sixteen mountaineers had not been equal to at least two demons we could never have arrived at this place! Looking up we saw the mountain rising peak above peak to its cloud-topped summit; but, alas! between us lay ravines and great chasms enough to daunt the stoutest. We were all too plucky to think of failure, yet I doubt if any of us really expected to reach the top of the Naiguatá in safety; but we had made a solemn compact to attempt

it, ignoring, in the face of a thousand risks, the possibility of failure.

The descent of the face of this deceptive spur or peak, which was very precipitous, had now to be made. The affair was managed expeditiously, with sundry



THE TIGER'S DEN.

exclamations echoing among the hills telling of the bruises inevitable in such rough work.

In the valley we entered a thick wood whose density defied the entrance of the sunbeams, and where *bambuseæ* interweaving their foliage formed magnificent arcades and beautiful pavilions. It was

a place of closely matted woods, "where crouching tigers wait their hapless prey;" and it was not long before we came upon traces of the recent presence of one of these animals. Under other circumstances I should have admired the delicate architectural taste of the wild beast, for the spot was one that an artist would have selected as the place upon which to erect the dwelling of his dreams, but at that moment my mind, solely from the artistic point of view, did not feel inclined to see the grandeur of this palace, and I thought it expedient, and very reasonable, to place myself in the centre of the party, calculating that, in case we had to make an abrupt acquaintance with the proprietor of this beautiful domain, those who occupied the extreme ends would have first to render him the honours due to his rank.

Leaving the tiger's lair we steered for another eminence which lay before us, and at 2 P.M. we ascended it. The temperature there was 83°, and the height 8175 feet. The sun, hiding itself behind a cloud on the top of the Silla, began to pour its rays down into the Quebrada de Cachimbo, up which a thick mist was drifting; although we were at or near the same level as the summit of the Silla, the effect of the sun's rays made that mountain assume undue proportions as it towered above us.

There was much consternation here at the sudden illness of Dr. Vaamonde. We naturally looked to him to help us out of any bodily accident, but he, alas! was the first of the party to be placed *hors de combat.*

He lay down incapable of proceeding farther. At first we attributed his malady to disappointment at not having any broken bones to set, but Bolet was attacked in the same way, and as I was never sorry for an excuse I spread my rug and had a quiet sleep. Goering led on the remainder of our party for a short distance, but returned to warn us of the folly of remaining in a place so dangerous. Dr. Vaamonde having somewhat recovered we determined to proceed. As a testimony of our gratitude for this humane warning, "*Punta de Goering*" was the name given to the district. Broken ground, gently undulating, was our next experience, and the change was delightful after the rough work of the morning.

Three hundred and fifty feet higher up we found the dry bed of (what in winter would be) a small lake formed by the waters which come down from the highest part of the mountain, and receive in this ravine a check to their rapid discharge. Here grew a delicate straw, promising us a soft bed, and as evening was already drawing near, it being 3.30 P.M., we took possession of the spot, and by unanimous consent it was selected for our encampment and head-quarters on the ridge.

A grave question now presented itself, casting a gloom over every face. We had not water enough to last out the remainder of our journey to the peak, not even sufficient for the night. The situation was a doubtful one, and led to many reflections. In expeditions of this nature I would suggest that the water should be carried in double-locked cases, of

which two persons should each have a key, the one useless without the other. The custodians, kept always as far apart as possible, should be persons of undoubted honour and integrity, and very well watched.

At such an immense elevation, after a long dry season we could not reckon upon finding a single drop of water. It was idle to think of returning to the small well from which we had drawn our supply, and losing the vantage-ground already gained with so much painful labour; while to turn back and abandon the enterprise, apparently so close to its termination, was a thing which the unflinching determination of the band obstinately forbade. Various were the opinions on this occasion, all agreeing, however, that the calamity which presented itself to us was very great. Only Lisboa remained tranquil, assuring us that for himself the deprivation was nothing, as he could pass a whole day without even wishing for water. We all envied the Brazilian at that moment, although his statement brought only ridicule upon him, for we declared him an outsider who ought to have neither voice nor vote in our deliberations. In this affliction it occurred to my mind to send some of our followers in search of water, and I succeeded in inducing three of the guides to undertake the quest, by addressing to them the warmest personal eulogies mingled with the persuasive eloquence of pounds sterling. They set off in the direction of the *Well of Life*, promising to be back in the morning of the following day, and in this hope we addressed ourselves with much gusto to a delicious meal. The first rank in it was assigned

to the native delicacy *hallacas*—highly spiced puddings made from minced meat and coarse Indian corn meal, and boiled in a covering of banana leaves.

Having finished gathering brushwood to feed the fire which was to save us from the severity of the cold during the night, as well as to lessen the probability of an extemporaneous visit from the king of these forests, we devoted ourselves to the pleasant occupation of examining the surrounding domain. Enormous masses of stone lay scattered about with that negligence and disorder peculiar to Nature, inducing a suspicion that that venerable old lady must have been madly frolicsome when she did this portion of her work. Here great rocks formed bulwarks and galleries for our encampment; there platforms whence the sight could follow the distant lines of the wide horizon; whilst in the midst of these a few shrubs appeared struggling for a dubious existence. Lower down the hillsides were plants which showed all the colours of the rainbow among their glowing clusters. What a sight it would be to see this district after the rainy season when all around is green and fresh and all the flowers are in bloom!

During a halt in the evening we mounted one of the highest of the rocks. "On the jag of a mountain crag" some of us commenced to take notes, and others to sketch; Bolet began to paint, whilst Terrero beneath busied himself with botanizing. The scene before us was one of such grandeur and solemnity that I became enraptured in its contemplation.

To the south the valleys and mountains formed an irregular table-land, and beyond the farthest hills were seen the plains below. To the north, about 500 feet above us, by an optical illusion, the entire chain of mountains seemed to extend, like an endless curtain, very peculiarly folded in some of its parts. To the east the grand peak of the Naiguatá appeared as if retreating from our sight like a night vision, whilst narrowing the horizon to the west were visible the Silla of Carácas and the mountains of Aragua. Already the mists were rising towards the Silla, and beyond, through a large gap in the ridge, we could discern what looked like the sea. The sun before withdrawing its light completely from the brows of the Silla cast its beams through the fog with exquisite play of light and shade, and soon fell upon the distant ocean, and in shadow and silence we watched the burning globe despoiled of its rays, tinged with purple, and surmounted by a sort of shining crown or cupola. As it sank into the blue waters the atmosphere which surrounded it seemed to grow rarer and purer ; the crown extended until it became lost in the great circle of the sky ; its purple changed to crimson, and meridians of black and green and blue girded it symmetrically. Gradually it disappeared, and with it the band of ruby which had tinged the surface of the waters before it finally sank into their waves. At this moment the moon rose behind us, illumining with its pale light the summits of the hills, and giving to the ocean the appearance of an immense shield of burnished steel.

At 7 P.M. the temperature was 54°. The height of our encampment was 8450 feet above the sea. The fire being lighted, and our party grouped around, we commenced a series of comic and lyric performances, in which every one displayed his best humour and attitude, the proceedings terminating with the national primitive "dance of the bears," this pantomime being executed by our two artists with such gracefulness as to draw from the audience applause loud and prolonged. The thermometer at 8 P.M. marked 50° of temperature, and 52° in the water.

Soon after, accommodated to the best advantage on our beds of straw covered with blankets and cloaks, with our heads resting upon ungrateful stone pillows, we gave ourselves up to rest and sleep. The agreement that one of the party should sit up all night in order to guard against the attack of wild beasts was abandoned. The intention of having a relief-guard was dictated by the commonest prudence, but Lisboa, the first who took his turn at it, fell asleep in his watch and did not arouse until morning.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ASCENT OF THE NAIGUATÁ.

PART III.

THE RIDGE.

"They gripe their oaks, and every panting breast,
Is raised by turns with hope, by turns with fear depress'd."
—DRYDEN.

THE thermometer must have fallen almost to freezing point in the night, for at six next morning (April 23d) it stood at 43°, when we all arose shaking like aspens. The night on the Silla was bad enough, but child's play compared to this. From the necessity of being encumbered with as little baggage as possible our coverings were but scanty. The fatigue of the preceding day, and the chilliness of the damps and dews which had struck through our clothes, combined to fill us with cramps and aches. We jested at such trifles, however, and one of the party declared that the chattering teeth reminded him of a band of nigger minstrels rattling their castanets. But if our frozen bodies were in evil case, our hearts were

stout and brave, and beat high with the prospect of a successful termination to this toilsome enterprise. Full of hope we resumed our preparations for the journey.

Half an hour afterwards were heard the shouts of the pioneers with the water. We answered them with joyful exclamations and loud hurrahs; and saluted the precious liquid with a salvo of two guns, the echoing sounds of which were lost while repeating themselves successively in the recesses of the mountains. Soon coffee was boiling in a *calcerola* (enamelled pan), which we rather ate than drank, so stingy with the water had been the improvised cook. The coffee, although nearly the consistence of paste, had not a bad taste, and at all events served to produce warmth, and stimulate the circulation of the blood of the benumbed band. I may give as the result of some experience a piece of advice which will be of service to any one forming part of such an expedition. When all have to drink out of one dish *drink last*, for common politeness will leave the largest share to the last man, who will also have the grounds—a by-product not to be despised on such an occasion.

At 7 A.M. we recommenced our march, carrying some flasks filled with water; against my advice the remaining liquid, with the provisions, blankets, and everything not likely to be of immediate use, were left behind in charge of two guides. This precaution made us somewhat more nimble for the ascent, but was afterwards the cause of new and more terrible

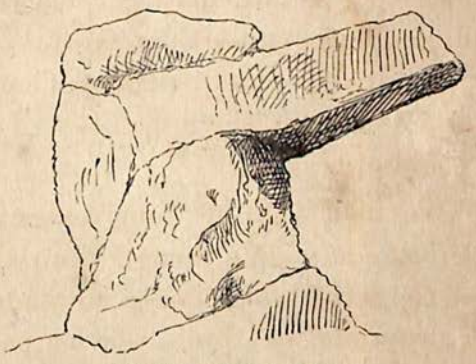
sufferings. It was intended as a safeguard against the predatory incursions of wild beasts, but the most ravenous of animals could not have been more destructive than those we left in charge of our stores.

The Doctor briefly examined the group, and pronounced us sound in wind and limb, but none doubted that he was anticipating plenty of practice in the surgical line within the next few hours. We marched along, Indian file, in morose silence, for we were all impressed with the difficulties of the desperate work opening up ahead.

We took with us four servants, two guides, and Berroteran, who, although desiring no remuneration for the important services he rendered us, endured all our caprices with praiseworthy patience. He merely smiled at the occasional "cantankerousness" which the inconveniences of the journey caused some of the members to exhibit. The torments inflicted upon him would have tried the piety and good temper of a saint. "Sweet are the uses of adversity" is a maxim that does not apply to the adversities of mountaineering, as these only develop the sourer parts of human nature. I was so struck with Berroteran's forbearance and native courtesy that I dubbed him Saint Berroteran, and I am sure there are many worse fellows than he in the calendar.

Our march was rendered more difficult by lack of any traditional precedent, and the necessity of taking circuitous routes in order to avoid the obstacles presenting themselves in following what seemed to be the most direct way to our destination. The

traces of vegetation grew fainter as we ascended, without, however, losing their peculiar character. The quartz now became abundant, and here and there jutting out from the mountain-side were enormous masses of rock, and the shapes these assumed were exceedingly grotesque, for they looked like the mouldering monuments in the burying-ground of some barbarous and gigantic tribe. We would gladly have remained to gaze upon these ruins, awful in decay, but it could not be.



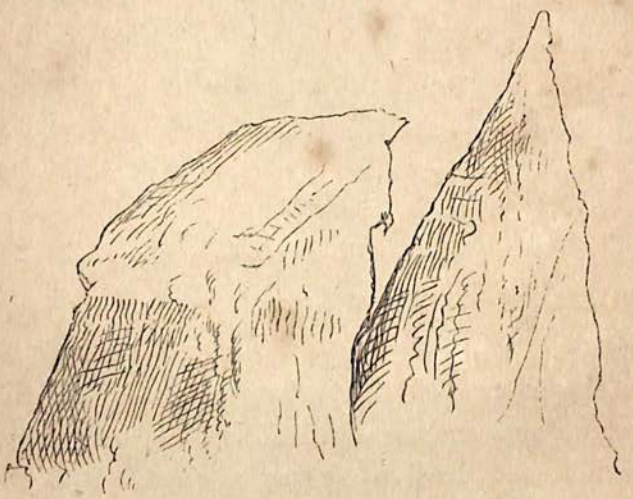
ISOLATED ROCK ON THE RIDGE.

We had taken Excelsior for our motto, and upwards we must go, and that with hurried steps. At the end of a march of thirty-five minutes the summit of one of the eminences into which the mountain of the Naiguatá is divided was reached.

Here, looking towards the north, we were seized with amazement at the sublimity of the scene, and we could understand the surprise Nuñez de Balboa must have felt on discovering from the summits of the Andes the borders of the Pacific ; for, on coming suddenly on this rise in the ridge, whose spurs we had been lately traversing, all the glories of land and sea burst upon us. The ocean looked like a gigantic tapestry, suspended from an apparently concave heaven—its aspect (ever changing) was dark, deep,

mysterious, opaque, and almost colourless, whilst miles away its waves were seen to break on the yellow sands of Cabo Blanco, Juan Dias, and other places on the coast. The vegetation about us alone presented a sad appearance, as it consisted of only four families, and these stunted shrubs.

Clefts and caverns abounded on all sides; large stones which had fallen upon deep crevices, formed natural bridges; everywhere around was seen Nature's



ISOLATED ROCKS ON THE RIDGE.

power in her wildest mood—"ruin upon ruin, rout on rout, confusion worse confounded."

This peak (8795 feet) we had hoped was the last, but we found out by sad experience the vanity of human wishes; the summit of the Naiguatá appeared to be receding from us, and was still peak after peak far away. Descending, we directed our steps towards the next rise, following the ridge till it brought us to the foot of some enormous gneiss rocks, which age and storm had

polished, and we began resolutely to ascend the new height, for all our efforts to flank this impediment to our progress proved abortive, as the ridge had gradually become more precipitous, and its spurs, serviceable heretofore, were now rendered almost unavailable.

The isolated peaks into which this part of the coast range is divided have the appearance of the naked turrets of an old round tower. Plants cannot grow,

ISOLATED ROCK ON THE RIDGE.

nor seeds germinate on their inhospitable brows, which, when warmed by the rays of the sun, throw out an excessive heat. It is my belief that the only way to this elevated point of the Naiguatá is along the spine of the ridge of which we made use; the rocks, though rough as files, offering sufficient hold during its perilous ascent.

After some rough experiences in the descent of the height already mentioned we came to a large stone

which in falling over an abyss (one of the frequent clefts or gashes in the ridge) had formed a wonderful natural bridge, the opposite extremity of the stone seeming to rest upon another piece of rock at a violently inclined angle, but in reality leaving a gap which required a great jump to clear. Not over anxious to monopolise either the glory or the danger of leading the way across the chasm, I tried my persuasive powers on a guide to induce him to be the pioneer, but as he obstinately refused the venture, I was obliged after all to set the example. With the words *Victoria ó muerte* I threw myself on the opposite side, where I gained a safe footing amidst the hurrahs of our company who were then just arriving on the scene. Had I failed to clear the space I should have been instantly dashed to pieces. I could not help reflecting that if I had succeeded in inducing one of our useless guides to lead the way, and he had fallen down the abyss, it would have drawn forth *one* of the noblest sentiments of our nature—viz., that Christian fortitude with which man bears the misfortunes and sorrows of others!

Puente del Salto was the name given to the bridge, and the best view of the Naiguatá was from this locality.* The Grand Peak looked appalling, and seemed to bid the stoutest mountaineer despair—hill after hill rising one above the other, and culminating in a summit which appeared absolutely impossible to attain.

I hurried on with Berroteran, leaving our party

* The "Illustrated London News," of August 24, 1872, contains a sketch of the Peak of Naiguatá taken from this spot.

either to take the "leap for life"—which some did—or to go by a circuitous route through the ravine below.

The isolation of the peak of the Naiguatá increases with time; there are traces of earthquakes on every side, and we may expect that some of these disturbances will rend the ridge with gashes of such a character as to make the summit totally inaccessible.

We arrived shortly at the foot of another rise which it was necessary to scale, and which several of the company in their flights of fancy supposed was the goal of our pilgrimage. Alas! the wish was only father to the thought, for the end was not yet. The hope of reaching its summit disappeared when we found ourselves unable to fix upon any point where it was possible to attempt an ascent. For a while we stood irresolute until we discovered a slope which terminated in a kind of step with some little vegetation growing in its crevices. This seemed to promise resistance to our feet, whilst with our knives we could dig holes into the wall as we climbed up. We ventured, and thus cutting our way, aided after a time by a rope which one of our nimble guides threw to us from the top, the brow was gained. This was at 9.30 A.M.; the temperature we found to be 72°, and the height 9340 feet. Some intervening mounts had yet to be climbed or circumvented before the final elevation could be reached.

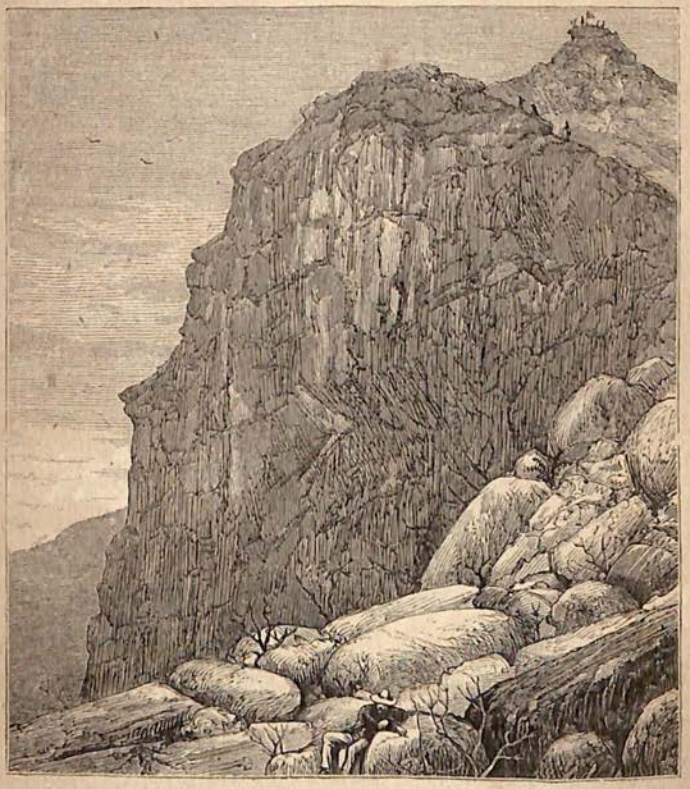
The high tor on which a few of the party were now congregated did not form, like the others, an altogether isolated eminence, but served as a base to the next one, which in its turn extended towards the east by a wall-shaped ridge, flanked on both sides by the most

fearful depths. At the highest point of this hill the rocks form three round columns, which seen from afar appear like the remains of a ruined temple. He who ascends for the first time may easily, here, believe himself to be already at the end of his journey, but a good look-out ahead is sufficient to show him his error.

The report of a gun drew our attention to the fact that Dr. Vaamonde, below, had just killed a *cachicamo* (armadillo), which apparently had been running over the ridge in search of food. No great advantage resulted from this, however, for the unfortunate animal was extremely thin. It is supposed to inhabit the plains only, and its appearance 9000 feet above the sea astonished us.

As we ascended it became noteworthy that the vegetation had been gradually changing in character, assuming the forms and qualities stated by geographers to belong to the flora of regions where the temperature is exceedingly low. There was thus an entire change in the course of our ascent to the summit of the Naiguatá. But, upon the deposits brought down by the rains to the level lands, which here open between rock and rock, sheltered from the wind, and rendered fruitful by the rays of the sun, vegetation has sprung up which may be called exotic, and beautiful grasses and plants were to be found whose habitat was nominally 3000 feet lower down. It appears that, owing to a rare atmospherical combination which would have an interest for science, this spot has a temperature equal to that which is artificially obtained in hot-houses.

Following for nearly two hundred yards the narrow way previously mentioned, which at its broadest scarcely measured three feet, with one side bordered by a grand precipice of at least 3000 feet, we came to a place which we called *El Balcon* (The Balcony).



THE GRAND PRECIPICE.

"Down those precipitous, black, jagged rocks,
For ever shattered and the same for ever,"

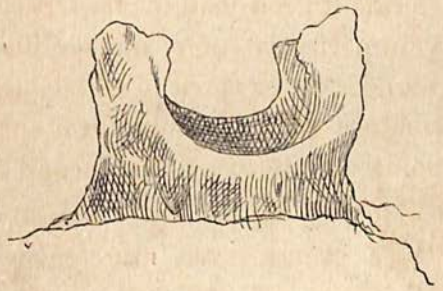
we could not look without a slight feeling of dizziness, and it required some time to accustom us to the sight of the abyss along which we had come, and

near which we now sat for the contemplation of its aspect and its surroundings. Looking back we saw at a considerable distance, on a spur leading up to the ridge of the mountain, a peculiarly-shaped stone having the appearance of a sphinx—an exact resemblance of the ancient Egyptian mystery. On the right, 500 yards further on in a direct line, we saw the needle of the Naiguatá whose side towards the north-north-west was covered with vegetation.

In this neighbourhood Mr Hûbel called our attention to the small dry bed of a lake where the vegetable matter in fermentation had caused the formation, though very imperfectly, of a matter decided to be turf. We found two or three of these peat deposits, and their moisture led us to hope for a spring, but we were disappointed. Between the second of the three great heights into which the Naiguatá is divided and the third, "the grand peak," the entire hillside is covered with masses of rock, wild and grotesque in form, and thrown together in the most startling disorder. We put the same manœuvre into practice as before in ascending the slopes of the next elevation. With sticks and knives we made indentations in its side for footholds, and by this method we gained the top, where we stopped to take breath.

There we were in the presence of a geological fact already known to science but the importance of which was once more confirmed; all the exposed bluffs, precipices, and walls of rock lay in a north-north-easterly direction, and in general they were surmounted by loose stones, the greater part of which jutted out as

if ready to precipitate themselves into the abyss, but were held back by the weight of the matter resting upon their other extremities. This natural mechanism at the same time causes the formation of spacious grottoes. It is said that the water-falls of the Cordillera, which are large and rapid, slope in the same direction. It may, therefore, be supposed that the great upheaval or eruption, which gave form to this part of the chain, has verified in the sense indicated this general law of the direction of north-north-east. If what has been told me by several persons be true, that the



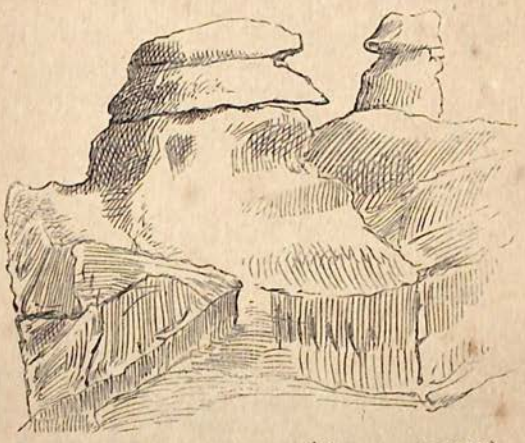
ISOLATED ROCK ON THE NAIGUATÁ (THE ARM CHAIR).

earthquakes which are felt frequently at Carácas follow this same course, we may conclude that the internal forces long ago opened for themselves sufficient outlet, and that it is clear, therefore, that the fear of volcanic eruption in this part of the chain is groundless.

Various and singular were the forms of the isolated rocks; sometimes they looked like walls carefully bound together; at others they had the appearance of columns crowned with turbans, such as may be seen in Mussulman cemeteries, while some might have been taken for stately thrones; but one which attracted

particular attention took the shape of a large half-moon perfectly sculptured.

With great difficulty we descended into a little valley, the bottom of which in the winter season will no doubt be found covered with water. We surmised this from the great humidity of the ground, and the occurrence of plants which usually live in water. At the foot of this declivity, Terrero discovered a spacious cave into which the light of the mid-day sun penetrated gently. Round about this grotto grew in great



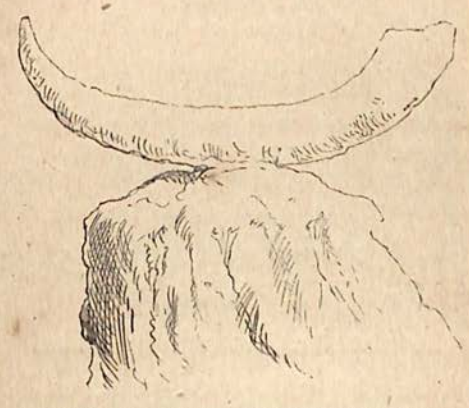
ISOLATED ROCKS ON THE NAIGUATÁ (CROWNED COLUMNS).

profusion grasses which had adhering to their stalks a kind of gum somewhat disagreeable to the touch. Truly this spot, by virtue of the rich luxuriance of its vegetation, merited the name we gave it of *The Garden of Naiguatá.*

After making innumerable turns, in consequence of the irregularity of the ground, we reached the crest of another peak, not arid and bare like the preceding one, but covered with verdure. The needle of the Naiguatá was now separated from us only by about two hundred

yards, and the rich vegetation which climbed up to its point made us forget the distance which divided it from the habitations of men. It was a garden rich with diverse colours, the freshness of the soil defying alike the rays of the sun and the changes of the atmosphere.

Full of confidence at having at last come so close to the goal and the end of our troubles we soon recovered from our fatigue, and with renewed vigour made the final onslaught on the needle; but the ascent was so steep that, in spite of the support



ISOLATED ROCK ON THE NAIGUATÁ (THE CRESCENT).

afforded us by the small trees, we found ourselves compelled to take a moment's rest, when, with remarkable temperance, we drank a few drops of *aguardiente* and water (homeopathically distributed), in order to quell the thirst which the fatigue of the ascent and the heat had so greatly increased.

Like a group of warriors who had impetuously scaled a tower, intoxicated with glory, smiling upon death, and violently transported with enthusiasm, we hastily directed our steps towards the summit.

CHAPTER V.

THE ASCENT OF THE NAIGUATÁ.

PART IV.

THE SUMMIT.

"We reach the summit, earth is in a dream
Of misty seas, and islands strangely born."

TEN minutes later the crest of that mountain, strange to the echo of the voice of man, resounded with the cry, "Hurrah for the Naiguatá!"

This was the first time that a human foot had pressed the sharp summit of that proud peak, and it deserves to be recorded that the event took place on the 23d of April 1872, at 11.41 A.M., when the barometer indicated the altitude to be nine thousand four hundred and thirty feet (9430) above the level of the sea,* showing a difference of 805 feet in height between it and the Silla of Carácas, the height of which we roughly calculated in our journey to its summit to be 8833 feet, but which in reality is only 8625 feet.

* We did not attempt to take the height by boiling point, as we had no water!

Seated on the rocks and stones crowning the top * we surveyed, aided by a powerful glass, the magnificent panorama, boundless, endless, and sublime, which was unfolded to our sight. Fronting northwards the sea extended so far into the sky as to be visible at a seemingly greater height than our own, and the islands of Los Roques and Orchila, which we could distinguish with the naked eye, looked as though they were chained to the firmament. On the east the range of mountains descending suddenly from our feet, and sinking lower and lower mingled at last with the forests of Unare. To the south the valleys of Carácas and of the Tuy were lost amidst the thousand hills that surrounded them, the latter looking like so many simple undulations as they extended in the south-east to the wooded ranges of Barlovento, and in the south-west to the mountain chains of Aragua. The horizon in the west was blocked by the Silla, which, always heretofore grand and bold viewed from whatever side, looked now somewhat dwarfed in height, and cheated of its fair proportions as never before had any one seen it. After having surveyed this immense expanse we reluctantly turned our attention to the spot on which we stood.

The needle of the Naiguatá owes the pointed form by which it is distinguished not only to its considerable height but also to the narrowness of its sharp peak. The point itself consists of about a dozen rugged rocks, the largest (on the top) and only well formed one being about ten feet long by six feet wide,

* See Frontispiece, Vol. I.

and three to four feet high; the platform shelving to the north-west is embraced within an area of 200 square feet.

On the north and north-east the mountain goes down by "The Grand Precipice," 3000 feet, and then in a steep declivity forms a promontory to the sea; in the direction of the east and south it is lost in dreadful cliffs and high craggy spurs; at the south-west, from which direction we had ascended, it first inclines to a high miniature valley, backed by six lower peaks, and then gradually descending it ends in another, beyond which rises the Silla with its barren summit. The declivities of the cone on which we stood were covered by an abundant vegetation, but we looked in vain, however, for more than a few specimens of the flora we had seen growing lower down.

Near one of the stones of the peak we gathered a number of plants, the greater part of them being new to all of us. I found here in abundance a fine *bambuseæ* or tall willow-fashioned grass, which turned out to be an undescribed species of *Chusquea*.

The rays of the sun were now so strong as to call for our serious attention. The excessive heat distressed us considerably, and was attributable to the rarefaction of the air, a circumstance which did not tend to augment the number of our scientific and artistic memoranda. The thermometer showed 82° at noon.

Wishing to leave a testimony of our prowess on the spot I got the guides to raise a cairn, upon which we fixed one of our climbing poles, with a handkerchief,

bearing my initials, fastened to it banner-wise. Further, we obtained Goering's powder-flask, and placed in it a paper bearing the signatures of the party. This record we deposited at the foot of the standard, protecting it by one of the stones.

Harassed by a burning thirst which the heat had increased, and having but a small quantity of water remaining, we resolved to set about the descent, and at 12.30 we took our departure from the summit. My companions were all very tired, and I was completely exhausted. During the whole day I had taken but two or three ounces of Indian-corn bread, and absorbed by the object in view, like all those who allow themselves to be possessed by a passion, I had nearly forgotten myself. The object being gained, and the result obtained, the mind which under this tension had so far vigorously sustained the body in the performance of its work now fell back completely depressed. At times from absolute physical prostration I almost fainted, but trusting to the kindness of those whom I had led to the summit of the mountain not to abandon me at these critical moments, I asked them to make frequent halts until my limbs should be ready for fresh efforts. The very little liquid, a mixture of brandy and water, which we still had, was distributed by rations of drops. This meagre consolation at last failed, and the burning lips sought in vain for moisture.

When the water was all exhausted, an almost profound silence reigned among us: only the panting of labouring chests was to be heard; few could speak, for

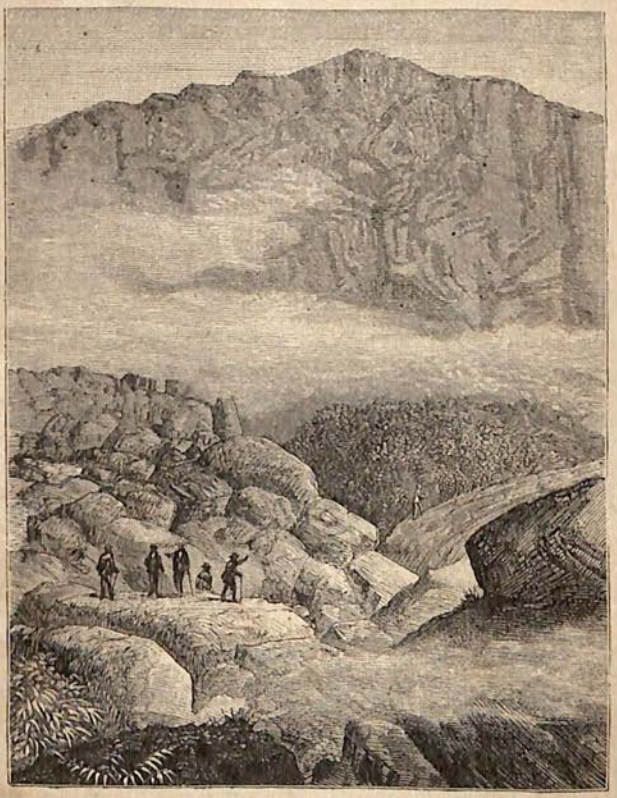
our tongues, dry, rough, and swollen, were unequal to their usual functions. Suddenly Bolet remembered that among his painting apparatus he carried a flask of water which served to wet his brushes; he approached me full of Samaritan kindness and applied the liquid to my lips, but in spite of the frightful thirst which possessed me, I could not swallow it; the flask had been filled some days before and turpentine had mixed with the water. From time to time as the travelling fogs passed close to us, eager lips opened to inhale the thin vapour. But the irritation of the thirst was terrible; our temples throbbed, our footsteps became tottering and uncertain, one idea alone had hold of all our faculties, and that was to get back to the encampment where we had left some of the precious life-restoring fluid.

The prudence of St. Berroteran saved us from losing our way, and perhaps also from death, since one of the pioneers, with that rustic simplicity natural to men in his condition, wishing to be thought a clever tactician and a knowing fellow, pretended to direct our return, and with singular persistence wanted to take us to the abyss. St. Berroteran pointed out to him the dangerous mistake he was making, and took the responsibility himself of guiding our downward track.

Soon afterwards we lost our way in a fog which increased the discomfort of our condition, and had it not fortunately cleared away we should have had to stay all night in this part of the mountain, which, without our blankets or rugs, would have been almost certain death.

The fog was much more dense later in the evening, and next day the whole mountain was enveloped in thick black clouds followed by copious showers.

On the ridge we stopped to examine a stone of considerable dimensions; on its surface was cut a

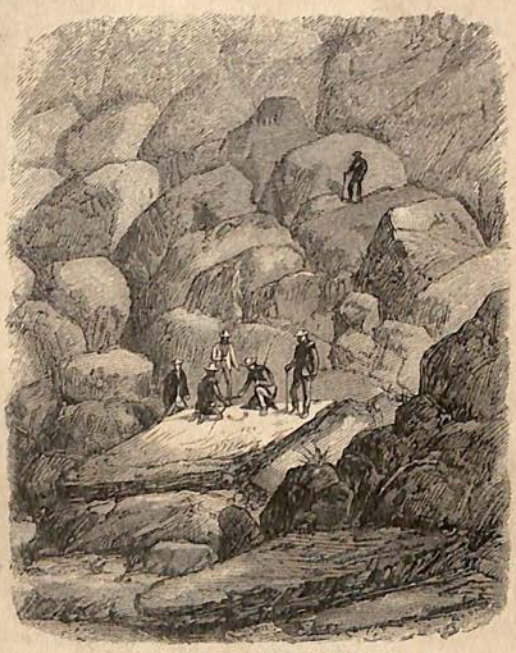


THE WAY LOST ON THE RIDGE.

symbol or hieroglyph, which we attributed to some aboriginal inhabitant of this section of America. It appeared to be a rude representation of a serpent trying to bite its tail, or of a small boat with its prow suspended. Its size did not exceed one foot. We

hastened to copy this example of primitive art, which may have been a sign to show the direction of the sea, or to denote a date, an event, or a tomb.

We descended two of the slopes very rapidly, some, in fact, preferring rather to roll than to guide their movements. Nevertheless it appeared to me as if we should never get to the encampment, such was the



DISCOVERY OF THE HIEROGLYPH.

anxiety I experienced. Desiring to hear somebody express the hope of a prompt arrival at the place where water—truly the water of life—was waiting for us, I asked one of the pioneers, on whose arm I frequently leant, if the place was yet far off. He answered me with that eternal "*aquí mismo*" (close here), which is equivalent in the mouths of the country people

to the most unpleasant irony, and the distressing meaning of which I had already learnt in my travels through the states of Barcelona and Aragua, and the valleys of the Tuy.

At last, at 3.30 P.M., we perceived the encampment like an oasis before us, and quickening our steps arrived there speedily.

"Water! water!" shouted all but myself, I could only utter a hoarse wordless sound; while greedily, desperately, each seized—a decanter—a flask—a bottle—

THE HIEROGLYPH.

All were empty!

"It has been used for the *caraotas*" (beans), composedly observed one of these human tigers whom we had left under the form of zealous guardians of our treasure, and before whose voracity the wild beasts of the Naiguatá would have fled in terror. [I attribute the fact of not meeting a tiger on this expedition solely to the presence of these fellows. The brutes must have felt that they would be overmatched!]

The most horrible ideas crossed my brain; a red film covered my sight, my ears hummed, and my tongue vainly tried to translate into words my burning indignation—I fainted and fell senseless to the ground.

Suddenly a cry of joy was uttered by some one who had found a vessel containing a little water. It was placed to my lips, and a delightful gulp calmed somewhat the fire which devoured me.

My friends wished to leave the encampment immediately, but feeling utterly incapable of resuming the march, I begged them to delay our departure for a brief interval, and made use of the respite granted to indulge in a renovating sleep, which so greatly restored me that I could, although with difficulty, set about the descent. On awakening I asked for a little water, and was told that it was all consumed—not even a drop remained. Seeing near me the remnants of a pan of the fatal *caraotas*, half-cooked, which the pioneers had left, I seized it with avidity, and, in spite of the black-looking nauseous appearance the semi-fluid compound presented, I drained to the very dregs this dish of uncleanness, which proved, however, as pleasant to my palate as the most insinuating of beverages.

The guides, ashamed of their conduct, agreed to start before us in search of water, with which they promised to meet us on the road, and, some time after their departure—about 4 P.M.—we broke up our camp and commenced a furious descent, reaching in half an hour La Trinchera, where the water-carriers met us.

Goering had the first draught, and the time that it took him to drink his share from the spout of the vessel seemed a century to the thirsty ones waiting. But this opportune help gave us vigour sufficient to proceed down the steep sides of the remaining declivities. Refreshed and cheerful, we hurried on. All tongues were now untied, and to prove the fact, some gave loud vent to their feelings, and made "the rocks and nodding groves rebellow to the roar."

Our "enthusiasmatized" friend Lisboa—as one of the Venezuelans described him—an indefatigable traveller, and a man of rare and almost incredible endurance, had gone in advance of us on leaving the encampment. Being aware of this, the most serious apprehensions were felt lest one who could refrain for so long a time from drinking, as Lisboa had declared he was able to do, and of which he had given ample proof, should make up for this abstinence by exhausting at one draught the only well on the road, the one we were now approaching. Whether this fear was seriously entertained, or whether the exceedingly steep descent impelled us with greater force, remains an open question. We did not slide down the slope;—that is too mild a term—we rather rebounded from stone to stone and from rock to rock with amazing velocity and violence. A few minutes after 5 P.M. we arrived at *La Fuente de la Vida*, where the limpid current was still running as though to reprove our fears concerning Lisboa.

We left behind in its clear waters the masks, composed of dust and the carbon of the charred trees,

which had made us look outlandish objects,—"as black as Vulcan in the smoke of war." Pursuing our road we arrived at *La Soledad* at 6 P.M., where we all took to our mules except Lisboa, who, on the previous day, had given orders for the return of his animal, and who proceeded on foot to his house at Sabana Grande. He arrived there earlier than we, thus giving additional evidence of his extraordinary fortitude. He may be said to be a true "chip of the old block," for his father on one occasion left the capital, made the ascent of the Silla, and returned to Carácas all on the same day. At that time he was discharging the duties of the Brazilian Legation in Venezuela, where his fine qualities are still remembered.

Favoured by the light of a serene and beautiful evening we reached, about 7 P.M., Cerro Duarte, where the wife of Berroteran received us with the greatest possible satisfaction seeing that we had returned safe and sound. Here we partook of a humble but abundant supper, richly seasoned by the kindness of our host and the sharpness of our appetites, for we were now like so many hungry bears.

I had the mortification to notice that my servant no longer carried the plants which had been intrusted to him when we left the summit of the Naiguatá. Unable to understand their value or interest he had thrown them away near to our camp on the ridge, and it was only by threats of instant dismissal from my service that he could be induced to return in quest of them. I thought it a serious matter to lose by his stupid carelessness the specimens gathered with so

much trouble. Amongst them were the only shoots we had brought of the new plant, and I was glad he succeeded afterwards in their recovery.

We parted kindly from our excellent friend Berroteran and his worthy spouse, and enjoying the pleasure of being carried by other feet than our own wearied ones we arrived at Los Dos Caminos at 10 P.M. Shortly afterwards we reached the house of Lisboa at Sabana Grande, and found him already there resting from his labours. We felicitated him upon his superior strength and pluck, bade him good-bye, and with many regrets and good wishes went on our way to Carácas, where we arrived just as the cathedral clock struck the hour of midnight, congratulating ourselves upon the fact that—

> "Something attempted, something done,
> Had earned a night's repose."

The following day I sent to Dr. Ernst the plants we had gathered, and it is to his friendly aid and scientific skill I am indebted for the satisfaction of knowing that, in spite of the hurried manner in which our expedition was necessarily conducted, science has gained something by it, as will be seen in the following chapter, containing, amongst other letters, one from Dr. Ernst giving a brief epitome of our botanic discoveries.

I have now fulfilled the objects with which I commenced this narrative of the ascent, preferring to be diffuse, and to note down even trifling occurrences and impressions, rather than to omit any detail which

might give a hint to the future traveller, and so contribute to the advancement of knowledge, and to the well-being of the republic.

Having shown that as it is possible to explore these elevated regions so it is for others to follow leisurely in our track, and collect fresh observations which may be useful to the inhabitants of this beautiful country, whose future prosperity and happiness are assured, if they are wise enough to take advantage of the peace which has lately been gained. God grant that on this occasion I may have succeeded as was my most fervent desire in conferring benefit upon Venezuela, a country in which I have received the most cordial hospitality, and amongst whose people I have spent some of the most pleasant days of my life.

The dates of these adventures, the hardships of which I have recounted, will be marked as red-letter days in the memories of those who shared in their toils and excitements; and, in after years, we shall all look back with unalloyed pleasure to the hour when, inspired by the love of enterprise, we scaled, for the first time in the annals of Venezuela, the hitherto impregnable Peak of Naiguatá.

CHAPTER VI.

AFTER THE ASCENT OF THE NAIGUATÁ.

"And aiblins if it winna stand the test,
Wink hard, and say the folks ha' done their best."

—BURNS.

THE ascent of the Naiguatá was a nine days' wonder, and the exploit furnished food for an amazing amount of gossip. Everybody seemed anxious to obtain particulars of our wanderings and our woes. On the 26th of April, *La Opinion Nacional* contained a short article, faithfully reproducing the substance of many conversations held that week in Carácas:—

"Of course sir, I believe it, since *you* tell me; but —have you seen them?"

"All of them."

"And they told you that they had ascended to the very peak of the Naiguatá?"

"Right to the very top, and they did not go any farther, because they found an end"——

"What,—to their provisions?"

"No sir; to the hill!"

"But are you not joking? Have you seen the leader? Have you talked with his companions, Lisboa, Bolet, Goering, Terrero, Vaamonde, and Hûbel? Are they safe and sound with all their limbs complete?"

"Yes; but it was a case of 'neck or nothing' with them. They were very near saluting his tigerish majesty, the king of these virgin mountains."

"You don't say so?"

"They encountered very recent signs that he had passed that way, and not only evidences of his existence, but of his good digestion.

"Ten thousand feet above the sea, and with all these dangers, without roads, leaping over sharp-pointed rocks; beyond all question they are the first mortals who have dared to place their feet upon the peak of this immense granite obelisk, whose height was respected even by Humboldt.

"The terrible part of the affair was that they were near dying of thirst! What do you think of them paying two guineas to the guides for a drink of water?"

"Astonishing! What mountaineers these men are! Ah! there I see one of them approaching; he will tell me all—I am dying to know more of this extraordinary affair."

Our friends urged us to publish a detailed account of the ascent, and their desire grew so strong that it found expression in the following communication, which appeared in *La Opinion Nacional*, from "Several Friends of Science:"—

"Mr. James M. Spence, an English gentleman, who has been our guest above a year, has successfully accomplished the ascent of the Peak of Naiguatá, the highest of the mountains which form the coast chain of Venezuela.

"That this peak was thought to be inaccessible, and that no human foot had ever touched its summit, excited in him the wish to organize an expedition to climb to the top, to make such observa-

tions as might be possible in the short time that his expedition could devote to science, and to secure some sketches of the various views the landscape would present.

"The expedition, composed of James M. Spence (as chief), Ramon Bolet and Anton Goering, both painters, and the latter also a naturalist and corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London, Leopoldo Terrero, Dr. Simon Vaamonde, surgeon, Henrique Lisboa, of the Brazilian Legation, and G. A. Hûbel, mining engineer, who were accompanied by Pio Berroteran, Miguel Rivero, Julian Rivero, Ambrosio Mesa, Meliton Cuervo, and four servants, altogether sixteen persons, left Carácas on the 21st of the present month of April, and returned from their excursion on the morning of the 24th inst.

"Such an event deserves to be registered in our statistical annals. The novelty, the dangers and pains, which had to be faced before it could be accomplished, give it the interest belonging to extraordinary events. The observations they were able to make add something to scientific knowledge, and enrich our geographical data by the notice of a new lakelet, and by dissipating the mystery reigning around the highest point of the Cordillera of the Coast.

"Several geographers and naturalists have entertained, before Mr. Spence, the thought of exploring the Peak of Naiguatá, but whether from the difficulties arising from its form and structure, or whatever other circumstance, certain it is, that these intentions have never been realized. It is only to-day, more than three centuries since the Spanish conquest, that a daring son of Britain, accompanied by some other gentlemen, no less resolute (amongst them three sons of Carácas, two Germans, and a Brazilian), have succeeded in the hazardous enterprise of ascending the 10,000 feet of height which geographers allow to the Peak of Naiguatá, at every step escaping from dangers only to encounter others still greater in proportion as they neared the summit.

"We have seen some of the sketches made by the artists Bolet and Goering pointing to scenes totally different from those which generally meet our eye; we have also seen the specimens of plants the excursionists brought back with them for more careful scientific examination. They show a distinct type of vegetation such as might be expected from the climate of so high a mountain.

"We hope that Mr. Spence, who has given so many proofs of his regard for Venezuela, will present us, as soon as possible, with a

relation of his expedition, which we shall esteem as an invaluable gift.

"CARÁCAS, *April* 29, 1872."

If we had entertained any doubt as to the wide-spread interest felt in our expedition, it would have been dissipated by the missive I received from the Minister of Public Works, a translation of which follows :—

"UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA,
OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS,
CARÁCAS, *May* 4, 1872.

"SIR,—This department is aware that in your desire to behold the beauties of our zone, you have undertaken two excursions, one to the Silla of Carácas, and the other to the Peak of Naiguatá which every one had previously considered inaccessible, and incapable of ever being explored.

"The undersigned, whilst congratulating you on the happy result of your undertaking, desires to make a request, which, from your consideration, and from the interest which in so many ways you have exhibited towards this republic, he has no doubt will be favourably received.

"Although the necessities of war absorb the attention of the Federal Executive, it has also occupied itself in those public undertakings demanded by civilization; as, for instance, statistics, a social and political agency indispensable in every well-ordered country. But this same war renders it impossible, at present, to perform much work, and has compelled the direction of this branch to limit itself to the collection of the statistical data already existing, especially that relating to History and Geography, and amongst the documents of this kind, it would be a pleasure, not only to the undersigned, but to all the members of the Government, to include the history of the expeditions carried out by Mr. Spence, whose studies and observations would without doubt be highly interesting. —I have the honour to be, &c.

"MARTIN J. SANAVRIA,
Minister of Public Works."

This letter was printed in the organ of the Govern-

ment, *La Opinion Nacional*, on the 7th of May, and along with it my reply. Whilst drawing up the account referred to in the preceding despatch, with a view to rendering it as complete as possible, I requested from each of my comrades such notes as they were able to supply. Some of these were given verbally, but from Messrs. Hûbel and Goering the following were received :—

"CARÁCAS, *May* 8, 1872.

"DEAR SIR,—Considering your kind request to give a full geological and mineralogical report of our ascension of the Naiguatá, which enterprise was so ably directed by you, and which was only through your untiring advance rendered a complete success, as none of us would have reached the summit, I beg to say :—

"That the mountains of Venezuela, and particularly the Silla of Carácas, of which the Peak of Naiguatá is a brother, have been thoroughly described by A. v. Humboldt and other eminent geologists, so that it would be difficult for me to add anything new. Besides, the time we spent on this high mountain was too short, and the dry season too unfavourable, to allow of a faithful examination.

"Taking it, therefore, as granted that the Naiguatá is generally composed of metamorphic rocks, that is to say, gneiss (without hornblend) and mica schist, I call your attention to two peculiarities, the first of which is well stratified altered or primary limestone, highly crystalline, and to be found in the western slope of the second peak; the second are those objects by our guides named *lagunas*, which are nothing less than mosses of peat. This last discovery is of high scientific interest, as peat has as yet never been found at such a height above the level of the sea as 7000 feet, and, in this country, I believe peat has never been found before.

"You will excuse this short notice, but I promise to complete it as soon as I come back from the second expedition, which is proposed to be made under the guidance of the eminent Dr. Ernst in August.*—I remain, &c. &c. "G. A. HÛBEL."

* This proposed expedition was not carried out. No second ascent to the summit of the Naiguatá has taken place.

"PUERTO-CABELLO, *May* 6, 1872.

"MY DEAR SPENCE,—I received your note on the 4th inst., the morning of my arrival. The heat is here very great, and I feel it the more as I have been such a long time in Carácas.

"It is impossible to give you a complete account of the animals of the Naiguatá after having been there only a few hours, but it seems to me quite certain that this hill has no particular animal life. The same forms of animals which inhabit other considerable elevations of the coast range of Venezuela also inhabit and visit from time to time the Naiguatá. Many species which we know, from equal heights in the interior of Venezuela, are not to be found on the hills of the coast. Regions of higher elevation in the interior, in the provinces of Merida, Tachira, and Trujillo, are of greater extension, and bear a much richer vegetation, and naturally more variety amongst the animals must exist. Between that Cordillera and the high coast range of Venezuela, which together form a ramification of the great Cordillera of New Granada, exists a large region of a considerably lower elevation, and therefore, by this natural interruption, many plants and animals from the Cordilleras never reach the isolated Silla and the Naiguatá.

"The particular situation of these two hills—the Silla and the Naiguatá—so near to the sea, and their exposure to the north winds, has an influence on the development of the vegetation, and gives a certain typical character to this part of the coast range, but the extension of the upper region is too little to produce a distinguished fauna. There may perhaps turn out to be a few insects not found in other parts of Venezuela.

"After all, my dear Spence, the time was too short, and we have only been able to get a general impression of all that we saw there, but as before said, I consider that the Silla and the Naiguatá have no particular fauna. The principal reason seems to me very clear.

"After having finished my excursions I shall write something on the geographical distribution of quadrupeds in Venezuela.

"A great many people have been here at my house, and all asking me to tell them of the great Naiguatá expedition.—I remain, &c. &c. "A. GOERING."

The account of the ascent of the Naiguatá appeared

in *La Opinion Nacional*, May 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th; its length preventing it from being all inserted on the same day. It was afterwards printed in the form of a pamphlet, as many were anxious to have it in a more permanent form than that of a newspaper article.* I cannot claim the credit of its elegant

NICANOR BOLET PERAZA.

Spanish, for my plain narrative was translated into *espiritual* Castilian by the kind offices of my good friend General Nicanor Bolet Peraza, who is distinguished alike as Soldier, Author, Artist, Dramatist, and Orator, armed at all points, and equally ready

* For the title see Appendix Q, No. 217.

with tongue, sword, and pen. It may not be irrelevant here to give a brief account of his career, as I have already mentioned his name several times in various incidents of my sojourn in Venezuela.

Born in 1838, his father placed him while still young, in the National College, but his strong distaste for mathematics led to his flight from that establishment. He was, however, passionately fond of literature and the fine arts, and in conjunction with his brother Ramon, he set up in 1858 an illustrated periodical, *El Oasis*, but the military ardour of the time infected him, and he joined the army. This episode in his life included some hard experience as a prisoner of war. His prison gates opened in 1865, and again aided by his brother's artistic talent he established *El Museo Venezolano*,* the most interesting and cultivated of all the literary periodicals the republic has produced. It was given up, for its editor again took part in the war which was desolating the country. His pluck and energy subsequently procured for him the rank of General. He was also elected a representative of the people, and soon acquired the reputation of an orator by his brilliant and witty discourses. He also became a successful pleader at the bar, and at the present moment is the editor and proprietor of *La Tribuna Liberal*. He has himself summed up the results of his life thus :—"So I may count, as the total result remaining to me of my thirty-three years of study, political agitation, and

* Appendix Q, No. 35.

marriage—some teeth less—the diploma of General, . . . and four sons."

When the pamphlet was in type I sent three copies of it for the use of the Statistical Department of the Government, and their receipt was thus acknowledged by the Minister of Public Works :—

"SIR,—This department has received the three copies of the printed account of your expedition to the Peak of Naiguatá, which you have been good enough to present as promised in your note of the 3d inst., in reply to a request made by me on behalf of the Government in a previous communication.

"The undersigned has great pleasure in conveying to you his thanks for the gift you have made to the Government, and in which you have given a proof of a spirit of investigation in the field of physical science, and at the same time of your interest for Venezuela.

"MARTIN J. SANAVRIA."

"CARÁCAS, *June* 28, 1872."

We afterwards heard of a party formed to attempt the ascent of the Naiguatá. Amongst its members were some experienced mountaineers, and it is said that they hoped to make the ascent before the notice of our climb was ready for the press. They went from the south-east side, and after encountering great difficulties reached the foot of the final rise, when the remaining ascent (1000 to 1500 feet) impressed them so much with its dangers that they returned to town declaring that it was impossible that we could have gone any higher. The proofs of our ascent were so well known that the defeated expedition was only laughed at.

The expedition to the Naiguatá gave ample scope to the genius of the lamented Ramon Bolet, whose

pencil revelled in the wild and picturesque scenes which lay around our toilsome path. My admiration of this self-taught artist, whose imagination was full of poetry, constantly expressing itself in harmonious lines and colours, was very great, and we were quickly good friends. His social qualities were at once genial and brilliant, and he seemed modestly unconscious of the existence of his artistic talent. Chiefly at my instance he devoted a considerable amount of his time to the study and practice of art, in which I felt sure he would hereafter be famed. Since my return to England his work has received many warm encomiums from persons whose judgment is entitled to the highest respect. Several of his drawings were submitted to Mr. Ruskin, and the following extract from a letter will show in what light the sketches of the talented amateur were regarded by the greatest of art critics :—

"The drawings have come, and the silver paper has driven me wild! but in spite of it, I've made out that the drawings are really good and full of feeling and power. The portrait ones very wonderful indeed.* But Mr. Bolet *must* come home to study, he can make no further advance where he is—or at least, will be losing precious time. Very little teaching *here* will set him on firm ground."

I have already mentioned that our botanical specimens collected on the Naiguatá were sent for examination to Dr. A. Ernst. Our learned friend was a man of mark, a very fine example of that class of savants of whom Germany has been so prolific. Dr. Ernst, who

* "The Peak Conquered" (Frontispiece to Vol. I.) is from one of these drawings.

is an able botanist, zoologist, microscopist, and ethnologist, has done much good work in various directions. To him is due the foundation of the Society of Physical Science of Carácas,* the labours of which promise to be of service to his adopted country. His researches into the flora of Carácas have made him the best

ADOLF ERNST.

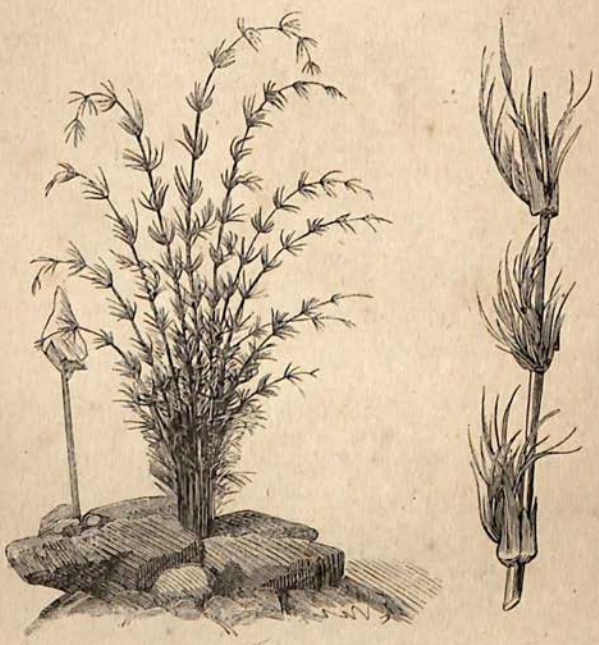
living authority upon the subject. The result of his examination of our plants he communicated to me in two letters, one in English, and the other in Spanish, but both of the same tenor and date. The English letter is as follows :—

* La Sociedad de Ciencias Físicas y Naturales de Carácas.

"CARÁCAS *May* 6, 1872.

"MY DEAR FRIEND,—I have the honour to give some slight notes upon the plants collected by you and your companions in the ascent of the Peak of Naiguatá, which you were kind enough to send me for classification.

"There are altogether thirty-two species, of which one is new to science; it is a tall grass of the genera Chusquea, and as you were its discoverer, I have named it *Chusquea Spencei*. Another species,



CHUSQUEA SPENCEI, FROM THE VERY SUMMIT OF THE PEAK OF NAIGUATÁ.
Height of plant 6 to 10 feet. Sketch taken from a half-dried specimen.

a Galium of the Relbunium family, is probably new also, but as the flowers are wanting it is impossible to decide the question. Amongst the other plants there are three which have not previously been found in our flora: *Siphocampylus microstoma*, Hook (Nueva Granada); *Gnaphalium incanum*, H.B.K. (Peru); and *Potentilla Ehrenbergiana*, Schlecht (mountains of Real del Monte, Mexico). The other species are found also on the Silla. The short time employed in the excursion did not permit you to make a very large collection,

but that which you have brought is more than sufficient to justify the hope that the high Peak of Naiguatá is the habitat of many interesting species of our *flora andina*.

"For further particulars, and for the exact description of the *Chusquea Spencei*, I refer you to an article which I am sending by this packet to the Editors of the *Journal of Botany*, of London, and which is entitled: '*Sertulum Naiguatense: Notes on a Small Collection of Alpine Plants from the Summit of Naiguatá in the Mountains of Carácas.*' *

SIPHOCAMPYLUS MICROSTOMA.

"Hoping that this may be enough for the present, and congratulating you as much as I have to thank you for the comparatively highly satisfactory scientific result you obtained in so hasty an excursion, I remain, &c. &c. A. ERNST."

Amongst the many congratulations which poured in from all quarters, few gave me greater pleasure than a letter from the gentleman who so worthily

* The article by Dr. Ernst on the Naiguatá plants is reprinted in Appendix D.

represents the interests of England in the republic.* The highest honour I received, however, was from the hands of the greatest living poet of Venezuela, Señor Heraclio M. de la Guardia, who wrote a poem upon the ascent of the Naiguatá, which some good judges are inclined to consider his finest work. Falstaff, we are told, was not only witty but the cause of wit in

GNAPHALUM INCANUM.

others. Next to the pleasure of being a poet we may surely rank that of having been the cause of the production of real poetry :—

VERSOS ESCRITOS PARA EL SR. J. M. SPENCE
EN SU ASCENSION AL NAIGUATÁ.

A la cumbre ! á la altura !
De Dios al fin mas cerca allí estarémos :
La luz allí mas pura,
Mas nítido el ambiente ;

* See Appendix H, Letter of Mr. Middleton on the ascent of the Naiguatá.

A nuestros piés el mar, el llano, el monte ;
Mas ligera la frente,
Mas libre el corazon, acaso el alma
Se ensanchará á la par del horizonte !

A la cumbre ! á la altura !
De confusas pasiones
Léjos del ruido tumultuoso, usado ;
Con nuestro propio pensamiento solos
Y con Dios en sus obras revelado :
En medio la salvaje
Naturaleza agreste y primitiva,

POTENTILLA EHRENBERGIANA.

Que nunca vasallaje
Rindió al arte ó la industria ;
Sino que muestra viva
De la mano de Dios, aún se levanta,
Vírgen de todo ultraje,
Libre del yugo de la humana planta ;
Acaso dado sea
En la huella divina, no tocada,
Que el alma encuentre la escondida idea
De lá vida, del ser y de la nada !
Acaso un débil eco, por fortuna,
Vibre allí todavía,

En los misterios del recinto oscuro,
De la voz celestial que oyó en su cuna
El mundo al despertar vírgen y puro!
Acaso allí, region de las tormentas,
El cielo airado se desate en iras,
Y en medio de sus luchas turbulentas,
Cuando el rayo chispea,
Y á la trémula voz del sordo trueno
La cumbre sacudida bambolea;
Puede que la mirada
En la luz del revuelto torbellino
Descifre por el cielo iluminada
Los ocultos secretos del Destino!

Adelante! ¿Del áspero sendero
Que valen el peligro y la fatiga?
Premio al arrojo habremos lisonjero
Cuando el gigante pedestal sumiso
A nuestros piés se incline,
Y abriéndose el espacio de improviso
Sus ámbitos profundos ilumine;
Y desde el alto monte
Sin límite terreno
Se estienda y se dilate el horizonte
De ardiente vida y claridades lleno!

Esta es la cima ya. ¡Oh! ¿desvarío
Será del alma lo que el alma llena?
¿No será sueño vuestro ó sueño mio
Esta admirable, majestuosa escena?
—Acá el mar, á los piés, como gigante
Encadenado en un profundo abismo
Que rujiendo se ajita delirante
Y tuerce en convulsion sobre sí mismo,
La agreste roca, la estendida costa
Borda en copos de espuma
En el afan inquieto de su ira;
Mas burlado su esfuerzo se retira
Hasta perderse en la lejana bruma!—
Cruzando su extension, al soplo suave
De la brisa marina,
Se vé lijera nave
Como viuda gaviota de alas blancas
Que en las movibles ondas se reclina!
—Allí del Tuy la vega

Lujosa en verde pompa y galanura,
Y las colinas mil do la luz juega
Y en varios tonos con placer fulgura.
Donde la erguida espiga
Del maíz generoso el útil fruto
Promete al labrador por su fatiga.
Donde el Café perfuma
La brisa en los jazmines
Con que su clima pródigo lo abruma!
—Allá el jardin, envidia á los jardines,
Que riega el claro Aragua
Y al que dió la fortuna
Beber la miel en estendidas eras,
Corona sin igual de su laguna!
—Y mas allá, tendido mar lejano
Que semeja de fuego
Y en luminosa nube se desata,
La llanura vastísima se extiende
Y en horizonte inmenso se dilata!
Gala de nuestra zona,
De ruda industria asiento,
Todo su augusta majestad pregona,
Todo allí cobra vigoroso aliento;
Que léjos de los lazos
Con que el placer cautiva,
Tranquilo el corazon, fuertes los brazos,
La savia el hombre guarda primitiva.
—Y acá, y allá; do quiera
Que atónito dirija la mirada,
Renace el mundo á su beldad primera,
Se sueña el bien de la primer morada!
Y en todas partes Dios, en todas partes
De su augusto poder la providencia,
Sin que logron las artes
O el vano génio de la humana ciencia,
Ni fingir ni esplicar belleza tanta,
Aunque en sus vanidades
Su orgullo hasta los cielos se levanta!
—En el mar Dios severo,
Misterioso, insondable se presenta;
Y en los campos, benigno,
Solo tesoro de bondad ostenta.
Y aún mas en este suelo americano
Brillan sus altos dones;

Que su pródiga mano
A esta zona dar quiso
Las galas del perdido paraíso!

Por eso, oh! Dios, te siento,
Te escucho, te bendigo:
Se oye en la ardiente tempestad tu acento,
Y en los bosques aquí se habla contigo!
Por eso, de esta altura
Que domina los mares, las praderas,
Y de la nube entre la sombra oscura
Quiere alcanzar incógnitas esferas,
Mi suplicante voz á tí levanto
Para que así cual providente un dia,
Hiciste con encanto
Tan bella y tan gentil la patria mia;
Hoi con piedad la mires
Y de paz y de amor tiernos afectos
Bajo tu santa ejida nos inspires;
Y en las otras edades,
En el carro de triunfo del progreso,
De civiles, sangrientas tempestades
Libre la pátria, por cortejo augusto
Solo habrá de llevar ante la historia
Justicia y Libertad, grandeza y gloria!

HERACLIO M. DE LA GUARDIA.

Mayo de 1872.

About the same time, whilst Señor Rafael H. Gutierrez was one day looking over the curiosities of my museum, there came into his hands a small book, whose yellow leaves excited his attention by their apparent age. It was a volume of a periodical published in Carácas from 1831 to 1835, with the title of *Memorias de la Sociedad Económica de Amigos del Pais*, and one of the numbers contained a full account of an expedition to the Silla of Carácas in 1833, undertaken by sixteen gentlemen, and commanded by the celebrated Juan Manuel Cajigal, founder of the

study of mathematics in Venezuela, and in every way qualified to manage such an undertaking in a scientific spirit.

This discovery had very great interest. All memory of the expedition had died away; whilst the fame of Humboldt's ascent was still in every mouth, this one, later in date, and due to native-born talent and enterprise, had been utterly forgotten. Yet in some points the excursion was more interesting than that of Humboldt especially on account of the rich collection of plants which was made, and afterwards classified by the learned Vargas.

La Opinion Nacional having published my own account of the ascent of the Naiguatá, and afterwards Humboldt's expedition to the Silla, was now anxious to supplement these by the narrative of Cajigal, and it was printed in that journal, on June 8. As it is quite unknown to English readers, I have thought that a translation of it would be a valuable addition to this work. It will be found in Appendix-K.

CHAPTER VII.

RESIDENCE IN THE CAPITAL.

EL ENCANTADO—CIVIL WAR—TREASON.

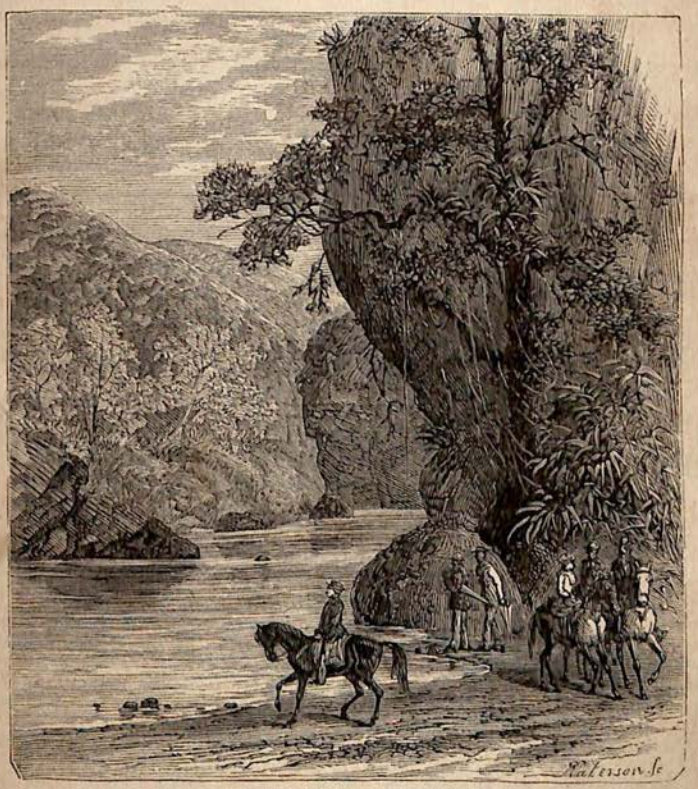
"Treason doth never prosper, what's the reason?
Why if it prosper, none dare call it treason."

—HARRINGTON.

A WEEK after the ascent of the Naiguatá came an excursion to the Encantado. The morning was dark and cloudy for a pleasure trip, yet at six, in spite of wind and rain, our party, consisting of Mr. Leseur, his wife, daughter, and son, Mr. Gosewisch, Mr. Stürup, Mr. Goering, and myself, started for El Encantado. In this lovely country when a place is named "The Enchantment," it raises expectations of beauty which the rain (no joke is intended) cannot damp.

On our way, near the Sabana Grande, we passed a sugar estate, with its hacienda, a very fair example of this branch of industry as it exists at the present time in the valley of Carácas. We also passed Sans Souci, the elegant country house of Mr. J. Rohl, with its pretty flower garden and coffee plantation; the farm of Blandin; the wayside inn of Los Dos Caminos; and the Güeregüere property of Señora Vaamonde. We were all mounted on mules, proverbially slow but sure, and

arrived at Petare shortly after 9 A.M., and in half an hour left for El Encantado. Following for some miles the left bank of the tortuous Guaire, we finally crossed the stream at a point not far from where the river appeared abruptly to terminate. Rich sloping pasture lands existed on the left bank, whilst



EL ENCANTADO, NEAR PETARE.

on the right there was a fine coffee plantation, followed by a high precipice, in the face of which were to be found the upper caves of the Encantado; farther on, the stream, striking at right angles into the hillside, disappeared altogether.

The ancient river channel has become cōmpletely dammed with *debris* covered with vegetation: It has filled up not only the stream itself, but also the entire valley for a distance of nearly half a mile. By what cataclysm this chaos of rocks has been brought about it would be hard to say, but a Cyclopean force must have been at work to produce such a result. The river blocked out of its ancient bed has forced a passage underneath the piled-up matter, and, as there was little water in the Guaire during our visit, we could in some places trace its subterranean course and see evidences of the force with which during great floods it had broken or bent to its will the obstacles it encountered in its passage. When the river is high the imprisoned waters make their escape by this way, and their exultant song is like the voice of many thunders.

In the sides of the precipices above and below, where the river is lost, are dark and tortuous caves in whose recesses one may soon be lost. In two of these, called The Caves of the Guácharos, we got some fine specimens of the bird which gave them their name. In places where the bed of the Guaire should have been, deep down below could be heard the roar of the river as it leapt from rock to rock, but we could only guess at its distance by the muffled sound which reached our ears.

The Mora is an extraordinary sight. It is a huge stone, a natural obelisk, about 100 feet high, jutting up from the hillside; it is covered with vegetation, and stands in the midst of a grove

of trees resembling some ruined church or monastery.

It would be impossible to convey any notion of the wonders of the Encantado and its surroundings. The memory of them has all the beauty and glamour of a dream.

Coming back we saw that it was *dia de fiesta*, and at Petare the people were all busy with the game of *Colear*. In this pastime the ends of the streets are blocked up, then oxen are turned into them and hunted by horsemen. When one of the pursuers overtakes an ox his aim is to seize it by the tail and so overturn it. On the way I passed through one of their barricades, and soon had a pack of riders after me in a high state of excitement, attempting to catch my mule by the tail in order to make it serve their sport. I dismounted and protested against their conduct in my most emphatic Spanish. They wished me to remount, as it was only fun on their part; but I declined to do so unless they promised to cease their molestation, and at the same time expressed my astonishment that they should offer such an indignity to a stranger ignorant of the game. Another of our party well known to them now came up, and amidst the apologies of the peasant spectators we took our departure.

This was the only occasion during my stay in Venezuela that I received any discourtesy from the natives, and the chief of the district gave me ample satisfaction afterwards, when he informed me that the men were *borrachos*, and after sobering down

they expressed to him their sorrow for the inhospitality shown to the foreigner.

The amusements of Carácas were increased by the appearance at the theatre of *Señor Bertz*, an Englishman, who performed some very clever conjurings. His attempts at the Spanish language were painfully ludicrous, and when he varied his discourse with English the efforts he made to smooth down the rough asperities of his strong Lancashire dialect were distressing to some of his audience. His tricks were of the class one is accustomed to see amongst professors of the magic art, but they were accomplished with a certain degree of smoothness and dexterity that gained him much favour and notoriety; whilst his gallant attentions to the fair portions of his audience were duly appreciated by the *belles*, who crowded to watch performances that in their apparent violation of the laws of nature might have suggested the idea of diabolical agency.

Towards the end of May whilst at a travelling American circus I witnessed an accident. The place was very crowded, and about sixty feet of seats, which were as usual in rows rising one behind the other, gave way, and the occupants fell down like characters in a dissolving view. Fortunately no one was hurt, and the performance went on with punctuality and despatch. These itinerants were unlucky, for, a few days later, the man who had ventured his life a thousand times on the flying trapeze at last met the reward of his folly by falling heavily on his breast. He died soon after from the injuries he received.

The month of May 1872 saw the end of the attempted revolution known as the "Treason of Salazar." On the very day of General Guzman Blanco's triumphal entry into Carácas after the victory of the Apure, the republic was invaded by an Azul force, under the command of General Matias Salazar, whose history forms one of the strangest episodes in the annals of Venezuela.

He was born in 1828, and received no education beyond learning to read and write. He played many parts in the battle of life, was alternately shop-keeper, clerk, bull-fighter, and soldier. Principles he does not seem to have had, and in consequence was in prison often. His military skill and aptitude raised him, however, to a high position in spite of the outrages and crimes associated with his name. He was a man of undoubted bravery, but of an ambitious and turbulent disposition, naturally fond of civil commotion on the principle—still at work even in Great Britain—that personal benefits are more likely to accrue from a state of disorder than from a state of order. An absolute absence of shame brought him safely through disgraces which would have destroyed a more modest man. On one occasion when Salazar was in prison, General Colino made use of the memorable expression, "*Salazar puede ser juzgado por cualquier crimen*" (He may be sentenced for any crime); for he had passed step by step through every stage of human wickedness.

Salazar was one of the first to take up arms in the liberal cause. His activity was prodigious. He

gathered men and munitions of war as if by magic, changed his encampment thrice in a single night, fought the Blues whenever there was a chance of success, evaded them when defeat appeared inevitable, and ever and anon carried on a sharp guerilla warfare. His unsuccessful attack on Valencia was undertaken against the judgment of Guzman Blanco, and its only result was the loss of many valuable lives and much material of war. In the campaign of seventy days, closing with the siege and fall of Carácas, Salazar rendered good service to his party, but from that day of triumph for the Yellows he appears to have meditated treachery. His restless ambition aspired to the highest power, and he only waited for a suitable opportunity to declare against his commander and seize the dictatorship for himself. The defeat he received at La Mora from the Blues, if it had not been promptly retrieved by the victory of Guama (fought against his wishes, and due to the generals who had been sent to his aid), would have lost two-thirds of the republic to the Yellows. Whatever assistance he had rendered to the liberal cause had been amply rewarded, as he was second in command of the army, a Vice-President of the Republic, and President of the important State of Carabobo.

We come now to the incident known as the *Noche de San Bernardino*, when Salazar, with a number of soldiers whom he had seduced from their allegiance to the Yellows, proclaimed a rebellion against the Government of Guzman Blanco, but finding no support (for the people treated his advances very coolly),

he went to Carácas to beg pardon of the man to whom, whilst making the warmest professions of friendship and loyalty, he had been so black a traitor. General Guzman Blanco extended a pardon to the culprit, but exacted from him the resignation of his high offices, and advised him to travel in Europe where he might study the political economy of the old world, and acquire a knowledge that might hereafter make him of use to his fatherland. Twenty thousand dollars were given him for the expenses of the voyage, and Dr. Filepe Larrazabal,* who accompanied him, is said to have received half as much from the same source.

Instead of proceeding to Europe these two worthies went immediately to Curazao, and from that island issued manifestos against the Government of Carácas, which were badly received, although some of Salazar's partizans made an insurrectionary movement in Carabobo which was promptly suppressed. Instigated and helped to the utmost by the revolution-breeders of Curazao, Salazar in person commenced another civil war. He expected on landing in Venezuela to unite with the Blues of Trujillo, but found that General Pulgar had routed them, and that the district fully recognized the authority of Guzman Blanco. His next move was to join Olivo in Apure, but the tremendous battle of San Fernando and the death of General Olivo frustrated this project. Still hoping for a revolutionary army he met the armed forces of Blanco, and a battle took place in which Salazar's troops were worsted, and he himself (with a few fol-

* Author of *La Vida de Bolivar.*

lowers) became a fugitive in the mountain fastnesses of Tinaquillo, in the State of Carabobo. Afterwards, on the 10th of May 1872, he was surrounded and taken prisoner. A memorial from the officers of the army demanding the degradation and death of Salazar was forwarded to the President, who remitted the case to the consideration of a Grand Tribunal composed of the generals-in-chief. After hearing the statements of Salazar, this court-martial sentenced him to death. He was accordingly shot, in the presence of the army, on the 17th of May, on the very spot where, it is said, he had murdered an inoffensive citizen a short time before—

> "Ah me! what perils do environ
> The man that meddles with cold iron."

This execution caused a profound sensation throughout the republic. The telegram from General Guzman Blanco announcing the end of Salazar reached the Vice-President and Minister of War whilst they were at breakfast in my rooms, and I well recollect the excitement it caused and the abrupt conclusion of our pleasant party.

The triumphal entry of the victor of Tinaquillo into Caracás took place on the 30th of May. About thirty carriages and some thousands of persons on foot went a few miles out of town to meet him. They returned with the President at their head, who led the way to the cathedral where a *Te Deum* was performed for this last great victory. Afterwards he proceeded to the Government House, and in the court-

yard he addressed to the people one of the most important speeches they had heard for a long time. "The principles of liberalism," he said, "are now firmly established, and the opposition is virtually wiped out. In Apure we completed the destruction of the Blue party, and the battle of Tinaquillo has shown that the Liberals can encounter and overcome traitors as easily as enemies. It is a lesson of warning directed against that unprincipled treachery which for a generation has proved so great a curse to the Republic. It now remains for all to aid in the great work of national progress. Patriotism and self-abnegation are necessary for the regeneration of Venezuela. The dictatorial power will remain in my hands until the government of the states has been reorganized; Congress will be summoned to meet in October, and to it I will resign my powers. All possible political prisoners will at once be released; but those who were taken in arms, and some conspirators whose influence might be dangerous to the work of pacification, will have to remain in durance vile until Congress meets and decides their fate." This speech, which was eloquent with hope and conciliation, was received with great enthusiasm. Peace was now regarded by all as firmly established.

Next day the town was full of excitement; the release of the political prisoners adding no small amount of pleasure to it. Amongst them were three former Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Republic.

I attended General Blanco's reception on the 2d of June to pay him a formal visit, and though on all

former occasions he was very cordial, at this interview his attentions were marked. He introduced me to his father-in-law, General Ibarra, a veteran of the War of Independence who had been a personal friend of the great Bolivar.

Speaking of Salazar, the President said, "The execution of the arch-traitor was an absolute necessity; had he been pardoned he would instantly have recommenced intriguing and probably would again have plunged this unhappy country into war."

We spoke about the industrial resources of Venezuela. "These," I said, "far exceed my anticipations, and continued peace only is needed to make the republic rich and prosperous. As far as material resources are concerned Venezuela is much more favourably situated than Great Britain, which is proverbially the richest of the nations. The national debt of Venezuela amounts to about £6 per head of the entire population, whilst for each man, woman, and child in the United Kingdom it is over £24. In Venezuela the produce of a month's work is amply sufficient to feed, clothe, and house the labourer and his family for a year; but the workingman of England has to toil three hundred days to accomplish the same ends. Hence it is clear, with a stable government, the industrial peasantry of Venezuela would have better chances than even those of the British Isles."

The President then presented me to General Alcántara, commander of the forces in Aragua. He had just ridden into the capital at the head of a thousand

soldiers who were then filing past the door of the Presidency. In response to a request from General Guzman Blanco he promised me every attention during a visit I contemplated to his district.*

In looking out for curiosities I had been fortunate enough to come upon a map of the state of Guayana, made by the celebrated geographer Codazzi, and enriched with many valuable and curious annotations. As this map marked the boundary of Venezuela and Brazil, it was of special importance and interest. An Envoy-Extraordinary from the latter country had lately been in Carácas to try and arrange the disputes which had arisen on this point. It appeared to me that a document so important would most fittingly be preserved in the archives of the nation, and with this view I offered it to the President. It was received with great interest, and procured me a flattering letter from the Government.

The second anniversary of the decree establishing primary education, national and compulsory, in the republic took place on the 27th of June. When the history of the administration of Guzman Blanco comes to be written, its chief glory will be that he was the first magistrate of his country to recognize the fact that the encouragement of education is the duty of the nation, and that there can be no guarantee for peace and liberty amongst a population destitute of the elements of knowledge.

An ignorant people will not only be less capable of

* My intended excursion to Aragua with Mr. Leseur was abandoned in consequence of illness, but I heard that great preparations were made for our reception.

Since this work went to press General Alcántara has become the President of the Republic.

83665

self-government than an educated one, but more incapable of control. How firmly the love of freedom is implanted in the hearts of the sons of Venezuela let her bloody struggle with old Spain testify. Yet education was most deeply to be desired by every patriot, if only that the million, cultivated and instructed, might learn to distinguish their true friends from false professors ever ready to flatter and betray for their own selfish purposes. The indispensable adjunct of democratic institutions is popular enlightenment. Without it liberty is too often only a gift of tears. Education had been greatly neglected in Venezuela, not more than ten per cent. of the community could read or write, and in the country districts especially there were thousands whose literary culture did not get beyond learning by rote the Lord's Prayer.

The decree for primary education was signed two months after the taking of Carácas, but the troubles that intervened prevented it being carried into effect. In only two states at this date had it been acted upon. Therefore the foundation of the model school "Guzman Blanco" was felt to be an important advance.*

* The following extract, translated from the President's (Annual) Message to Congress of 1875, shows the increased efforts which are being made to educate the people:—"During the past year (1874–75) the

Scholars in the Federal National Schools numbered . .		13,440
„ Municipal „ „ . .		12,941
„ Private Establishments „ . .		5,008
		31,389
In the previous year (1873–74), the number in the National, Municipal, and Private Schools was only .		15,226
Increase		16,163."

About this time I held my most important interview with the President, and although it was not of long duration it gave me more gratification than any of the preceding ones. I found him in company with the Ministers of Public Works and Finance, the Rector of the University, and some other magnates, with whom he was arranging the affairs of the nation. As soon as I was seated he informed me that my business respecting the islands was now in the hands of the Minister of Public Works for formal completion. The welcome intelligence that I had at length brought to a successful issue my long and weary negotiations with the Government caused me profound satisfaction.

CHAPTER VIII.

EXCURSION TO PUERTO-CABELLO.

"War, war, is still the cry—'war even to the knife!'"
—BYRON.

ON the 15th of June, accompanied by Lieutenant R. A. Hammond, I went to dine by appointment with Captain D. Miller, of H.M.S. "Sirius," which vessel had just come from the death-stricken west coast of Africa—the white man's untimely grave. There it is that the men of the English navy nobly protect the poor merchant, holding their own lives in their hands in so doing. A brave sailor hates to die of fever, but then consider our commercial interests! What are a few thousand lives, more or less, in order to secure the prosperity of our big shop? The "Sirius" had been anchored off the coast for nearly a week, and during that time the captain and officers had availed themselves of the opportunity it afforded of inspecting the capital and its neighbourhood, where they passed —so they said—"some very jolly days."

We left Caráças about 1 P.M., in a light coach drawn by three active horses, under the control of a spirited driver. For the most part of the way the road is

down hill; our progress therefore was very rapid, and we reached the port of La Guayra in three hours, the minimum time in which the journey is done. Just as the evening gun was fired we went on board the "Sirius." In the distance, beyond the rugged cliffs of Cabo Blanco, the setting sun dipped below the blue waters, and his departing rays illumined with golden splendour the canopy of clouds suspended over the western horizon.

We dined in the captain's cabin, where the British Diplomatic and Consular services were well represented by Mr. Middleton and Mr. W. A. Cage, and where none failed to do ample justice to the captain's excellent bill of fare, which was enlivened by familiar airs vigorously rolled out by the drum and fife band of the ship. After dinner we were not loath to ascend to the quarter-deck, and there, under the awning, enjoy the "noxious weed," to our heart's content.

I was roused at eight bells the following morning (Sunday), and after breakfast went to Divine service. I had been for some time a stranger to the "rest and peace of the sanctuary;" the only religious observances I had attended for sixteen months were those of the Roman Catholic Church. The sailors were marched round and closely inspected by captain and officers. As even Spanish inquisitors would be unable to detect heresy by ocular examination, it is to be supposed it had reference either to the condition of their muscles or clothing, but to which of them was not very clear.

Alongside our ship lay the "Gerona," the Spanish frigate which in August 1866 seized the "Tornado" in the port of Fayal, under the pretence that she was intended for a vessel of war for Chili.

Directing the attention of one of the officers to the huge proportions of the "Gerona," I asked him—

"What course of procedure would be adopted on board the little "Sirius" in case of an action between the two ships?"

"We should keep the frigate at a respectable distance," said he in reply, "and pepper her all round with our big guns!"

This was a very practical matter-of-fact sort of answer to my question, and worthy of the age we live in, though I could not see where the "naval glory" would find a place in such a programme.

There is an excellent regulation on board English men-of-war which forbids smoking before mid-day, a rule which might be very advantageously adopted elsewhere. In the afternoon Captain Miller and Mr. Middleton went on shore to pay their respects to the President, who was staying at La Guayra. In the evening Lisboa came on board with some of the officers to whom at my request he had been showing the lions of the capital. The captain on his return was good enough to offer us a cruise to Puerto-Cabello, to which place the "Sirius" had next to proceed. This offer was gladly accepted. It gave me personally considerable pleasure to sail in a vessel in which I might claim a vested interest, and I walked the deck with the proud consciousness of being (part)

owner of all I surveyed. This vainglorious impression was however considerably modified by Lieutenant Herring's unfeeling calculation that my share was only about one thirty-second-millionth part of the ship! and that this pecuniary interest in her—by which I had established such indisputable rights of possession and proprietorship—if capitalized would amount to about *one halfpenny!*

The order on board the "Sirius" was perfect, Captain Miller being a rigid disciplinarian of the old school; nevertheless there was an evident good feeling all round evinced in the respect of the men for their officers, and in the latter for their chief.

I was roused at 4 A.M. the following day by the kindness of Lieutenant W. Molyneux, who waited my letters to send on shore before our departure from La Guayra. The officers were all pleased to go to Puerto-Cabello, which had peculiar interest for them, as having been the scene of one of those dashing exploits for which the English navy has always been famous.

In 1779, the 32-gun frigate "Hermione" was under the charge of Captain Hugh Pigot, a commander not entirely destitute of courage but of a brutal and tyrannical nature. On the 22d of September she was cruising off Porto Rico, and whilst the sailors were reefing the top-sails Captain Pigot loudly expressed his determination to flog the last man off the mizen-top. To avoid this punishment two of them made a spring to get over their comrades in the rigging, and missing their hold, fell on the quarter-deck and were

both killed. "Throw the lubbers overboard," was the only comment of the fiendish wretch in command. This last act of base inhumanity gave rise to a most determined mutiny, which burst forth the next evening, when the first lieutenant was tomahawked and thrown overboard. Sharp retributive justice now awaited the captain for his savage procedure. As he ran on deck, he was immediately beaten back bleeding to his room, and forced through a cabin window. Eight more officers were mangled and murdered. The mutineers then took the ship to La Guayra where they represented to the governor that they had turned their officers adrift in the jolly-boat. The "Hermione" was taken possession of and fitted up as a Spanish national frigate, and in September 1799 she was safe in the harbour of Puerto-Cabello, equipped and in readiness for a voyage to Havana. Since changing hands her guns had been increased to 44, and in place of 220 men, she had a crew of 393, including 72 soldiers and artillerymen.

Sir Hyde Parker, the commander-in-chief in Jamaica, was very anxious that the "Hermione" should be intercepted on her way to Havana, and for this purpose Captain Edward Hamilton, of the "Surprise" —a 28-gun frigate, which had been captured from the French—was sent to look out for her off Cabo de La Vela, a point on the Goajira coast about 60 to 80 leagues from Puerto-Cabello. His instructions were to remain as long as his provisions would hold out. As the "Hermione" did not appear, he determined before returning to Jamaica to learn whether she were still at

Puerto-Cabello, or if she had slipped past in the night. On the 21st she was seen in the harbour of that place, protected by two strong batteries; she had her sails bent, and was ready for sea, and although Captain Hamilton continued to watch her closely until the 24th, she showed no disposition to leave her snug quarters.

The same evening, the hands being sent aft, Captain Hamilton concluded an appeal to their daring and patriotism by saying, "I find it useless to wait any longer; we shall soon be obliged to leave the station, and that frigate will become the capture of some more fortunate ship than the 'Surprise;' our only prospect of success is by cutting her out this night." His appeal was responded to in true British style, and by 7.30 six boats were ready for action. The men were all in blue, with no white clothing of any kind visible. In the event of reaching the ship undiscovered, the regular crews of the boats were to take the "Hermione" in tow directly the cables were cut. Whilst they were yet a mile off they were discovered by two gun-boats, armed with one gun each; the alarm was given, and firing commenced. Captain Hamilton pushed off for the frigate, but some of the boats, instead of following him, stayed to engage the gun-boats—an error in judgment which nearly proved fatal.

Hamilton and the men in his boat gained a footing on the forecastle, and freed the foresail ready for bending and hauling out to the yard-arms, laying over the fore-stays; this served somewhat to screen

the handful of Englishmen now on board. Meanwhile the sailors of the "Hermione" were at quarters on the main-deck firing at what they supposed to be two frigates coming to attack them, and unconscious that the enemy was actually on board, but not so those on the quarter-deck. For ten minutes the sixteen men had to struggle unaided, and at one time Captain Hamilton was alone! He was attacked by four Spaniards, one of whom felled him with a blow from the butt end of a musket, delivered with a force that broke the weapon. He lay for a short time insensible on the combing of the after-hatchway, and was only saved by the fortunate arrival of three or four of his men. At this moment the marines entered the ship over the larboard gangway; they instantly formed, fired a volley down the after-hatchway, and then, with fixed bayonets, rushed on the main-deck. About sixty Spaniards retreated into the cabin and surrendered, while the fight still raged under the forecastle and on the main-deck. The cables were, however, cut; the boats had the frigate in tow, three wounded sailors stood by the wheel, and the "Hermione" passed out of Puerto-Cabello, under the fire of the batteries, a British ship once more. Captain Hamilton boarded her at midnight, by one o'clock all opposition had ceased, in another hour they were out of reach of the batteries; and then, for the first time, the men from the towing-boats set foot on her. The Spaniards lost 119 men, and had 97 wounded—many of them dangerously. The British had only 12 wounded, and if Captain Hamilton's orders had been strictly obeyed there

would probably have been still fewer, for three of the boats instead of pushing straight for the "Hermione" wasted their energies in a contest with the gun-boats.

The audacity of this dashing exploit was amply justified by its success. A mere handful of Englishmen disabled two-thirds of the crew of the "Hermione," notwithstanding that they were armed and fully cognisant of the attack, and took her out under the fire of the shore batteries. As long as this pluck and valour remains to our race we need fear no reverses. Heaven send us plenty of gallant sailors, and rulers who will not reward borough-mongering with peerages, and the daring genius of an Edward Hamilton with simple knighthood.

We arrived at Puerto-Cabello, and came to anchor in the bay near the entrance to the harbour, when there commenced at once a series of courtesies between the "Sirius," and other ships—firing guns, hoisting flags, and receiving visits. Amongst our neighbours was the "Arapiles," a large iron-clad screw of sixteen guns; the "Pizarro," a wooden paddle steamer of five guns—both Spanish vessels; and the "Shawmut," an ugly-looking American ship or hulk, something like a Newcastle collier turned man-of-war. Far inside the harbour, alongside the wharf, lay the "Virginius" ss.,* belonging to the Cuban insurgents. She was ready to sail, had all her papers made out, and carried the United States flag. The "Arapiles"

* The "Virginius" was afterwards captured on the high seas by a Spanish man-of-war, and the captain, officers, and crew were taken to the nearest port, where they were all butchered in cold blood.

was specially on the lookout for her, but as she was under the protection of the Venezuelan Government the big Spaniard could not butcher her where she lay: and the "Shawmut" was to cover her when she came out. How this was to be done was not very clear, for, to all appearance, the "Arapiles" could, in less than five minutes, have blown the "Shawmut" out of the water, and out of existence too—in which case there would have been at least one ugly thing less in the world.

Puerto-Cabello was clean, well paved, and in good order, with every appearance about the town of its doing a prosperous business. At one time it was notoriously unhealthy—in 1793 a squadron lost a third of its complement there, and in 1802 three French ships of war were attacked by a plague which in twenty days killed 161 men. New comers formerly soon fell victims to the *vomito negro*, but of late there has been great improvement in sanitary arrangements, and the death rate is now comparatively low. The climate of Puerto-Cabello is much more agreeable than that of La Guayra from the fact of the average temperature being lower.

The city has had more than its full share of the troubles which have visited Venezuela. Its population which at the commencement of the War of Independence was 5000, at the close of that struggle had dwindled down to 2000; in 1869 it had risen to 6952, of whom 2568 were males, 3684 females, and 700 described as "floating population."

In its origin Puerto-Cabello was merely a station

for the smugglers in their business relations with Curaẓao. The increase of this contraband trade was the first cause of the extension of the population to its present proportions. The port is a good one, its name is said to have been given to it because, in the opinion of the *contrabandistas* who frequented it, ships might anchor in it with a hair for a cable—*los buques podian anclarse en él con un cabello.* It has an excellent mole, which would probably attract ships to it for the purposes of loading and unloading, whatever sort of a place the port itself might be.

The city of Puerto-Cabello has some public works worthy of notice: the chief are; the famous fortress of El Castillo Libertador—in former times considered impregnable—commanding the entrance to the harbour; the lighthouse of Puenta Brava, which has a nautical school with endowed professors; El Resguardo, or office of the captain of the port; Las Pilas or public fountains; and the Alameda or public garden, kept in good order by the municipality. There are also a railway and station (abandoned), some fine warehouses near the wharves, and numbers of well-built merchants' store-houses in various parts of the city.

The landscape viewed from the sea is very beautiful. The water is generally calm and placid, its waves having none of that fury with which the ocean beats upon some coasts, but are as gentle as though it were a sheltered lake; whilst above the city rises the range of the Hilaria mountains. Groves of mango and cocoa-nut trees add the beauty of their graceful forms and rich colouring to the scene.

Here the coast range of hills, at the foot of which the city nestles, reaches a great height. Patanemo is 4278 feet, Las Tetas 4256 feet, and the Cerro de la Vigia 4002 feet. The last hill owes its name to a watch-tower stationed on it—now in ruins and deserted. The like fate has happened to the Mirador de Salano, which formerly held sixteen pieces of artillery, but was abandoned by the captain-general before it was fairly completed, as it was thought the city could be better defended from batteries built lower down. Most of the fortifications established in the old colonial days have long since been abandoned.

In the evening of our arrival I called upon Mr. Robert Conn, the English vice-consul, who has plenty of hard work though no pay from the British Government. So the post of maintaining the honour and glory of Old England in a place within ten degrees of the equator under such circumstances is not one to be envied. Conn felt it to be so!

At three other ports in the republic, the vice-consuls receive on an average £250 yearly. The gross English tonnage entering one of these (the port of Maracaybo), during 1861 was only 2046 tons, in eleven sailing bottoms, and it is probably less now, as other flags are doing nearly all the business. At Puerto-Cabello twelve steamers call annually from Liverpool, and the same number from Great Grimsby, besides a fleet of sailing vessels hailing from the United Kingdom. The steamers vary in burden from 1500 to 2500 tons each.

If we profess to pay our consuls in Venezuela at

all we should scarcely make an exception to the detriment of the one appointed to the best port in that country.

Next morning (June 18), Captain Miller, Lieutenant Hammond, and I called upon Mr. Goering, and examined his collection of objects of natural history, including no less than six hundred species of Venezuelan birds, many of which he assured us were new to science. Not the least interesting portion of this exhibition was a variety of sketches he had executed for me of our late excursion to the Silla of Carácas.

We then proceeded by coach to San Esteban, which is the country retreat for the business men of Puerto-Cabello. At an altitude of about 100 feet above the level of the sea the temperature was 88° in the shade; a circumstance which did not at all detract from our enjoyment of a bathe in the river. We purchased some of the beautiful flowers and fans which they manufacture here from the feathers of birds; and were much amused by the performance of an itinerant musician who played on six instruments at once—to play any one of which was exercise enough on such a hot day.

Higher up the river plant life had a tropical richness, and the ruddy brilliance of the *rosa de montaña*, standing out from the background formed by the dark trunks of the trees, produced a very charming effect. San Esteban made a pleasant picture. The clear stream, now brawling into a cascade, now eddying round some rocky island, and now calmly reflecting the green foliage of the trees, and the brighter colours of

the fruits and flowers; the gorgeous plumage of the birds, and the blue sky flecked with fleecy clouds, completed the woodland witchery of the scene. There was nothing to mar its beauty, it was the harmony of nature undisturbed by any of man's vain inventions.

The accompanying engraving is from a drawing made by Mr. Goering on the spot, and gives a good idea of the form of this pleasant nook; but colour alone can adequately interpret its sylvan beauty, and the bosky coolness of the vegetation.*

In the afternoon I bade farewell to my naval friends; the "Sirius" proceeding to Porto Rico, and I returning to La Guayra by the "Bavaria," a Europe-bound ship which was to call there. She was one of the Hamburg line of packets, and as I had had some experience of the Cunard and other first-class lines, I found everything about her to be far below that standard of excellence which is maintained on all ocean-going passenger steamers belonging to any of the large English steamship companies. The food it is impossible to describe, as I failed entirely to understand it.†

On board the "Bavaria" I met Dr. José M. Rójas, one of the best scholars in the republic, and an energetic business man of Carácas. He is personally well known to the Venezuelan bondholders in London.

Dr. Rójas had just returned from the Dutch island of Curazao, which circumstance gave rise to some

* See Frontispiece.

† Most of the German steamers on the route to the West Indies and Venezuela are first-class vessels, possessing every comfort and convenience, and thus being the reverse of the "Bavaria."

conversation relative to that place. A thousand cases of merchandise are landed there every month; half a dozen amply suffice to clothe the half-naked mongrel race which constitute its population, and the rest are smuggled into Venezuela, New Granada, and the Central American republics bordering the Caribbean Sea. The capital of the island is a nest of hatchers of revolutions, smugglers, and renegade Jews, who enrich themselves by the blood they cause to be shed and the misery entailed on the unfortunate countries named. Political feeling runs very high in the Latin races, and each party, of course, thinks that the prosperity of the country depends entirely upon the adoption of its programme. If this cannot be done peacefully the gentlemen just alluded to are willing to supply the sinews of war; but when the revolt has become a successful revolution the interest demanded is so exorbitant that its payment breeds fresh discontent. To do the money-lenders justice, they are quite willing to aid in overthrowing the government of their first customers for a consideration.

Trinidad is another hot-bed of conspiracy, but having its own legislative business to attend to is not so bad as Curazao. Humanity would suffer little if the latter island were blotted out of existence.

We left the wharf of Puerto-Cabello at 6 P.M., but lay at anchor outside four hours, and then by moonlight steamed to La Guayra. The following day we disembarked at 9 A.M., and amongst those coming on board I met Mr. Thomas Nevett, an Englishman, who after forty years residence in Venezuela was

returning to the old world; many a time during the long winters he will regret the pleasant climate he was leaving behind.

I returned to Carácas in the afternoon with General Guzman Blanco, whose body-guard of 600 troops was on the road. On the way the President spoke of his plans for developing the resources of the country, and especially of a railway to Carácas from Cátia (near La Guayra), and of a new port at the latter place.

I arrived at my rooms at 7 P.M., having been only four hours on the road, which showed that the President was not one to loiter by the way.

CHAPTER IX.

GOVERNMENT MINING CONCESSIONS.

"Los negocios del palacio andan despacio."

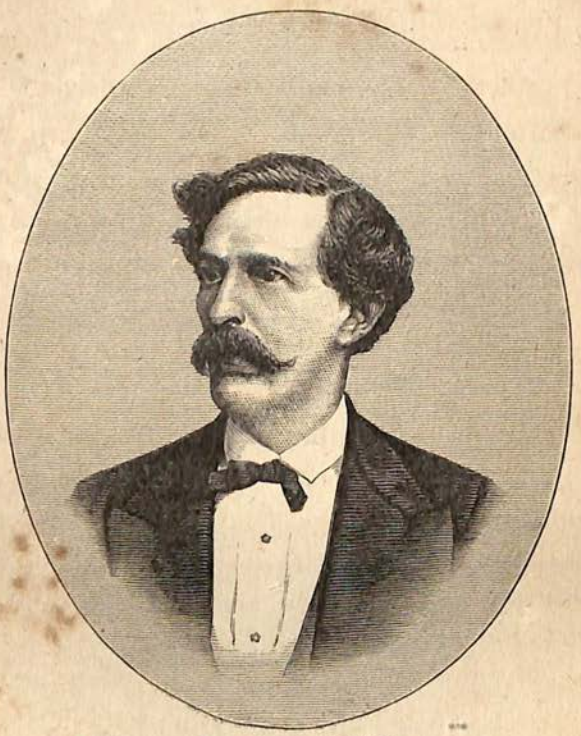
—SPANISH PROVERB.

ALLUSION has been made in the previous chapters to the progress of my negotiations with the Government for certain mining concessions or privileges which I had instituted, to enable various industrial projects to be inaugurated. I will now give a connected account of them.

The first and most important of these was the leasing of the islands of the republic for the extraction of phosphates. Los Roques, Orchila, Las Aves, and some smaller groups had been granted to an American company, solely for the removal of guano. The first-named were also leased for the production of salt; and having heard, on satisfactory authority, that they contained mineral phosphates, I at once determined to apply to the Venezuelan Government for an exclusive right to mine and ship this material. Accordingly, soon after my arrival in the country, my good friend Leseur accompanied me to the *Ministerio de Fomento* (Office of Public Works), and introduced me to the minister, Dr. Martin José Sanavria, with whom a petition was lodged to be submitted to

the consideration of the Cabinet. About six weeks later another offer was made from a Liverpool house.

I had interviews almost daily with Dr. Sanavria on the subject of the phosphate concession, but my progress was very slow. No real or tangible obstruction presented itself to be grappled with, but innumerable



MARTIN JOSÉ SANAVRIA.

causes of delay arose—enough to have exhausted the patience of the man of Uz himself—and the business dragged on monotonously, instead of being brought to a speedy conclusion, as I had earnestly hoped, when first it was taken in hand.

In June 1871 Dr. Sanavria said the Government

wished me to offer a royalty of one-tenth of the produce of the islands; but, as my proposals had already been varied several times with a view to meet the wishes of the Cabinet, his Levitical suggestion was not acted upon. The President, it appeared, was unwilling to make a grant of the islands until they had been examined by a scientific commission. This was on the 16th of June, and on the 17th came news of the seizure of the capital of Barcelona by the Blues, dispiriting for me, as I was now anxious to obtain certain privileges in connection with the coal mines of that State, for facilitating their working, and the construction of a railway. [These have already been mentioned in describing the visit to Nueva Barcelona.] Authority was wanted for this work, and also exemption from import and export duties, and port charges. The minister advised me to complete my contract with Señora Monágas, who was the owner of the coal property, and then send in my petition to the Government. Acting upon this advice the necessary documents were prepared, and by the end of July signed and placed in his hands, in full hopes of an immediate and favourable response to my petitions. It was not, however, until the end of September that the matter was concluded. Before the President's departure for Valencia he left instructions for the completion of the Barcelona concessions. The successful termination of these negotiations made me hope for the same good fortune with respect to those still pending.

Early in August of the same year Mr. William

Grange of Philadelphia, whose acquaintance I had made in England, came to Carácas. His long life had been spent in roaming over all parts of the world, and now under the burden of from eighty to one hundred years he was the very impersonation of one's conception of the wandering Jew. Thinking that he was endeavouring to gain a phosphate concession, I told him that after my six months' work he had not much chance; but he protested that his sole object was to sell arms to the Government, a statement I received *cum grano salis*. The opposition so far encountered could have been overcome by personal efforts, but when the American appeared upon the scene it became certain that mischief was brewing, and the sequence showed the correctness of this forecast. Mr. Grange made offers to the Government for the islands, and my proposition, virtually accepted before his arrival, was indefinitely postponed. I had secured specimens from Los Roques, and some qualitative analyses were made, and the mineral found to contain phosphoric acid, in sufficient quantity to induce me personally to make a careful examination of the islands before submitting another proposition to the Government; my previous offers having been based chiefly —though not entirely—upon speculative grounds.

Meanwhile Mr. Grange was working industriously, but his progress was of a checkered nature. Some letters which appeared in the newspapers (and were attributed to his pen), so far from aiding, probably damaged his cause. At last he gave up personal negotiations and left for the United States, but before

taking his departure he engaged Dr. Ernst to visit Los Roques and report upon them.

But Mr. Grange's absence did not increase the rate of my own speeding, and it was not until March 1872 that my final proposition was made to the Government. The day after it was placed in the hands of Dr. Sanavria it became known that the President was going again to Valencia, and the Minister was urged to have the contract finished before his departure. I was so tired out with the constant delays that serious thoughts of giving up its further prosecution and returning to England were in my mind.

The President on his return from Valencia having given his verbal consent to my last proposition, at an interview mentioned in a previous chapter, I hoped that at last the end of my troubles had arrived, but to my surprise, when next I called upon the Minister, he showed me an immense pile of documents relating to the matter, and mentioned a number of alterations which he wished to make in the contract. The first was to limit the concessions to Orchila, where, so far as I knew at the time, no phosphates of value existed! There were other important changes he desired to make, but this one was sufficient, and as the President had been understood to assent to my ultimate proposal the discussion of these questions was declined.

Whilst the negotiations were still hanging fire in this perplexing manner, I was the object of a delicate compliment, as agreeable as it was unexpected, and

which may perhaps have had its effect upon the Cabinet, by showing to its members that their petitioner had, to some extent at least, enlisted the good wishes of the people of Carácas. It will be best to give a simple translation of the report which appeared in *La Opinion Nacional* of July 13th, 1872, omitting only some portions of a complimentary character.*

"Last night took place, in the *Café del Avila*, an artistic banquet, by which twenty gentlemen, friends of Señor James M. Spence, desired to show their appreciation of their esteemed guest.

. . . . . .

"The saloon was prepared with simplicity and art. The banners of England and of Venezuela, interlaced and crowned with garlands of beautiful flowers, adorned the walls; and opposite the post of honour, which was occupied by the gentleman to whom the banquet was offered, was seen a beautiful allegorical picture in crayons, the work of Señor Ramon Bolet, on which was displayed the two shields of England and Venezuela, surrounded in artistic mingling by the symbols of science, art, and commerce; shining above this beautiful combination was the English word 'Welcome' (*que espresaban un cordial saludo*). Beautiful festoons of natural flowers ornamented this picture, which formed the base for a group of plants, amongst them being our characteristic *cambour*, the symbol of America, under whose shade was placed upon a pedestal the bust of the Liberator.

"The portrait of the guest, the excellent work of Señor Diego Casañas, had been fixed upon the opposite wall; and round it fell in graceful folds the English and Venezuelan flags. The lower part of the picture had a bunch of flowers, symbolic of those gathered by Señor Spence and his companions upon the Naiguatá, to enrich the investigation of our flora. The banquet commenced by some musical pieces composed expressly for the occasion, and executed by

* *La Revista*, edited by General Diego Hugo Ramirez, published a special number a few days after, with a full account of the banquet, the number being dedicated to myself. See Appendix Q, No. 192.

their authors, who were amongst those by whom the banquet was offered.*

. . . . . .

"The gentlemen of Carácas represented at this feast of friendship and of art have given a striking and eloquent proof of their ability to appreciate exertions made for the benefit of their country.

"May Señor Spence find imitators, and may they ever be inspired by such cordial demonstrations."

On the 15th July I arrived at the actual conclusion of my negotiations. I had an appointment with Dr. Sanavria for 9 A.M., but was kept waiting until 11 A.M. before he could enter upon the business of the concession. After discussing some of the points, we met again at 2 P.M., and worked on until sundown, and, as even then all the details had not been arranged we adjourned to his house at "Los Chaguaramos," where we remained discussing the vexed questions until 10 P.M. As there were still some articles left for the decision of the President I

* "OBSEQUIO AL SEÑOR JAMES M. SPENCE.

Programa.

1. Pieza para canto y piano por Ildefonso Meseron y Aranda.
2. Romance sin letra compuesto y ejecutado por Eduardo Calcaño.
3. Barcarola por Ramon de la Plaza arreglada para piano y harmonium.
4. Duo de cornetas de piston con acompañamiento de piano, arreglado por Eduardo Calcaño y ejecutado por el mismo y los Señores de la Plaza y Marcano.
5. Discurso de órden por Santiago Terrero Atienza.
6. Poesía por Diego Jugo Ramírez.
7. Composicion en prosa por Pedro Toledo Bermúdez.
8. Poesía por Eloy Escobar.
9. Composicion en prosa por Nicanor Bolet Peraza.
10. Composicion en prosa por Leopoldo Terrero.
11. Poesía por Jacinto Gutiérrez Coll.
12. Pensamientos en ingles por Emilio de Las Casas.

CARÁCAS, *Julio 22 de* 1872.

set out at midnight by coach to cross the mountains to La Guayra where he was staying, and saw him between 7 and 8 A.M. the next morning, when we settled in half an hour all that remained to be done; after which I telegraphed the good news to my friends in Carácas, and returned there in the evening.

Many called to congratulate me upon the successful termination of the affair, and the following day my rooms were besieged by others on the same errand. The documents * were now signed by the Minister of Public Works, and if the long delays had somewhat irritated and wearied me, the closing scenes were performed so gracefully, and with so much amiability, as to compensate for the eighteen months of hard work which the business had entailed, and as there were several competitors I could scarcely blame myself for lost time.

* See Appendix O. Translation of the Concession of the Venezuelan Islands for the extraction of Mineral Phosphates.

CHAPTER X.

THE FIRST VENEZUELAN FINE ARTS EXHIBITION.

"*Don Carlos.* I had engagements elsewhere.
Pray who was there?
Laura. Why, all the town and court.
The house was crowded; and the busy fans
Among the gaily dressed and perfumed ladies
Fluttered like butterflies among the flowers.
There was the Countess of Medina Celi;
The Goblin Lady and her Phantom Lover.
Herr Lindo, Don Diego, Donna Sol,
And Donna Serafina, and her cousins."—LONGFELLOW.

ONE evening at the Café del Avila, whilst talking with my good friends Ramon Bolet and his brother Nicanor, Leopoldo Terrero, and some others, it was suggested that, as my collection of pictures was soon to leave for England, it would be well to give a public exhibition of them in Carácas. On inquiring it appeared there had never been a public fine art collection in the capital, and it was immediately determined to take the necessary steps to organize one.

The scheme was espoused with enthusiasm by the gentlemen present, and although there were only three days at our disposal before the opening fixed upon, yet in that time we obtained loans of pictures, drew up and printed a catalogue,* secured the patron-

* Appendix Q, No. 58.

age of the President and his Cabinet, sent out invitations to the principal citizens of the town, and arranged for the "First Venezuelan Fine Arts Exhibition" to be inaugurated by a banquet.

For four days the theatre of the Café del Avila was converted into a picture gallery. The greater part of the works shown came from my own collection,* but various other "amigos del arte" liberally lent from their treasures to increase the interest of an exhibition which it was felt might have considerable influence in stimulating the artistic talent of the republic.

The first day, from eight in the morning until three in the afternoon, was set apart for those specially invited; after that hour the public were admitted without ceremony, and came in crowds of all ages and conditions to see and admire the genius of their countrymen. In short, the exhibition was a decided success, and the newspapers spoke of it in the most glowing terms. The collection showed that, notwithstanding the neglect of the fine arts in the republic, there really existed a fund of talent that needed only culture to develop into proportions which would do honour to the nation. More than 12,000 persons passed through the room.†

On the first evening, at six o'clock, the rooms were closed to sight-seers on account of the preparations for the banquet, which commenced at eight, and was universally considered a great triumph in its way. We

* Appendix Q, No. 221.

† See Appendix L. Translation from *La Opinion Nacional*, July 29, 1872, of an account of the "First Venezuelan Fine Arts Exhibition."

had with us some of the most eloquent orators of the republic, but it would be vain to attempt to record their "winged words." The speakers were Señores A. L. Guzman and Eduardo Calcaño, Generals Ramon de la Plaza and Nicanor Bolet Peraza, and Doctors Santiago Terrero Atienza and Martin J. Sanavria.

Amongst the pictures exhibited were some that attracted justly merited attention from the visitors. One of the most popular was a small water-colour drawing by Señor Ramon Bolet, entitled *The First Sorrow*, representing an incident in the domestic life of one of his own children. It was thus described by a well-known critic (Abdul Azis): "The boy, whose only treasure was a little bird, which pleased him with its melodious notes, on opening the door of its cage one day to give it food found it dead. At what a little cost has the poor child entered the vale of tears, and yet, without doubt, there is no greater sorrow for him."

Another from the same artist by its marvellous fidelity to nature excited great amusement. It represented one of the "characters" of the city, a dealer in charcoal, whose daily rounds made him familiar as one of the public men. Each individual has something to be proud of, whether it be wit, long descent, or worldly possessions; it was this man's boast that he had the finest donkey in the republic!

There was one, a sketch by Anton Goering, which appealed to the martial spirit of the nation, and represented a group of *Venezuelan Troops in Camp*. They looked rough and ragged enough to have thrown

an English martinet officer into convulsions, but "in their eyes could be read that proverbial valour which in former times, when used against the well-equipped regiments of old Spain, gave memories of imperishable glories."

A water-colour drawing by an Italian artist, Señor Francisco Devegno, of *La Guayra from the East*, was a picture of great merit, as were also four other studies from the same pencil.

Several oil paintings by local artists who had studied in Europe were also exhibited, some of which for originality of design and colouring were the most attractive objects in the exhibition.

CHAPTER XI.

PROJECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE REPUBLIC.

> "And thus the native hue of resolution
> Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought;
> And enterprises of great pith and moment,
> With this regard their currents turn awry
> And lose the name of action."—SHAKESPEARE.

BESIDES the matter of the coal-mines of Nueva Barcelona, and the mineral phosphates of the islands, already mentioned, I gave a good deal of attention to projects for introducing traction engines into Venezuela, for extending the telegraphic system, and for improving the ports of Maracaybo and La Guayra by railroads from these places.

Traction engines would be an immense benefit in the republic. In the British Islands, with a net-work of railways and good roads, we make little use of them, but in South America where the fertility of the land is rendered of no avail by the difficulty of transporting the crops to the coast, they would form, in many parts, exceedingly good substitutes for railways. Mr. Fred. H. Hemming, the Venezuelan Consul in London, has a concession of an exclusive right to introduce these engines for twenty-one years into Venezuela.

There is no telegraphic communication with Europe, and only a small portion of the country itself is supplied with this important means of communication. In the new career of peace upon which it is hoped the republic has fairly entered, the swift messenger electricity will be found indispensable.*

The most obvious course seemed to be that of a submarine cable to connect La Guayra with the island of St. Thomas, but the great distance (over 500 miles) would be fatal to the project, from the enormous cost in the first instance of laying such a line. Fortunately a much more feasible plan presents itself, which is, to run a system of telegraphic wires across the States of Bolivar, Barcelona, and Cumaná, to the Boco Grande, the strait separating Trinidad from the mainland. About five miles only of submarine cable would be required, and, with a short addition of land line, would unite with the telegraph at Puerto España, thus giving direct communication with Europe.† By this method three important States in the Union would be opened up, and the route would embrace most of the places of importance in them. From Barcelona a branch line could easily be constructed, to go to the

* From a conversation with the manager of the Venezuelan telegraph lines held whilst a revolution was still raging, I learned that, in spite of the disturbed state of the country, the wires were very seldom cut, or interfered with; perhaps owing to the fact that both the Blues and the Yellows used them.

† Another opinion, given to me by one of the most practical submarine telegraph layers in England, is that a cheap form of cable laid off the coast, from La Guayra to Puerto España, with branches to Barcelona and Cumaná, would be the most advantageous—the distance not exceeding 375 miles.

flourishing town of Ciudad-Bolivar on the Orinoco, taking in its course Aragua, the centre of an important cotton-growing district.

The Eastern States hâve often given trouble to the national government in Carácas on account of the difficulty of obtaining prompt intelligence from them. The construction of more telegraphs would be a strong guarantee for the peace of the republic. From La Guayra to Carácas, thence by Victoria and Valencia to Puerto-Cabello, there is a line of telegraphs in good working order; and an additional one, to the valleys of the Tuy, would be of great advantage to the State of Bolivar. The districts through which the proposed extensions would run are rising daily in importance. With peace their natural resources will become developed, and their wealth — agricultural and mineral—will be available for the service of mankind.

The Venezuelan Government has concluded a contract with Señor Carlos Hahn by which he has the sole right for twenty-one years of laying and working a submarine telegraph cable from La Guayra to St. Thomas, where it can be joined to the international or intercolonial telegraph system. The contract is dated October 31, 1872, and exempts from all duties the materials required for the construction and maintenance of this undertaking.*

The existence of coal in Venezuela has been long known; in 1837 there were some mines partially

* It is said, that owing to the work of construction not having been commenced within the time stipulated, this concession has been forfeited.

worked, but the absence of customers led to their abandonment. The coal measures of Curamichate are said by Mr. Henry Ridley, an English engineer, to be rich and almost inexhaustible. They are situated on the coast, in the State of Coro, and are reported to extend from east to west a distance of 45 miles. The mines which have been worked belong almost wholly to Mr. Robert P. Syers of Carácas.

The quality of the coal is said to be nearly equal to English common sorts, and the strata is so near the surface that the mineral can be very easily obtained. Mr. Ridley estimated that 500 to 700 tons daily could be obtained from one locality. The first bed is found along the coast at 11 metres above the sea level, but under this is a second seam, where the coal must be considerably harder than that of the surface deposit, which takes a place between bituminous and stone-coal or anthracite.

Mr. A. Hûbel has had specimens of this coal tried in some steamers with very satisfactory results. A German chemist (Dr. Fleck) made an analytical comparison between the coals of Cardiff and Venezuela, and he thus sums up their relative heat-giving properties: Venezuela, 548·155; Cardiff, 728·215—that is to say, that every 100 tons of the latter description is equal to 132·84 tons of the former. Cardiff coal costing at Trinidad nine American dollars per ton, Venezuelan coal should then be worth $6.77.

It is estimated that the steamers engaged in the foreign trade of Venezuela consume about 86,400 tons annually; this alone would form the nucleus of

a good and profitable market for coal so easily worked as that of Curamichate.*

Maracaybo, notwithstanding that it suffered greatly during the civil war, which robbed it by death and abandonment of part of its population, at the present time enjoys a large amount of material prosperity. This is owing to its favourable geographical position, and to its magnificent lake. The only drawback is the *barra* (bar) *de Maracaybo*, which is yearly making the entrance to the port more difficult. The deposit of sand is now so great that, except for vessels of slight burden, entrance to the lake is attended with grave dangers and considerable delay. Every year ships are cast away, and the cargoes plundered by the Indians of the coast. We have heard of as many as twenty-seven ships being detained at one time, waiting for a favourable opportunity to escape this obstacle. The difficulties of the commerce will increase every year with the growth of the bar. It is already an evil calling loudly for a remedy, but fortunately the difficulty is one not insurmountable.

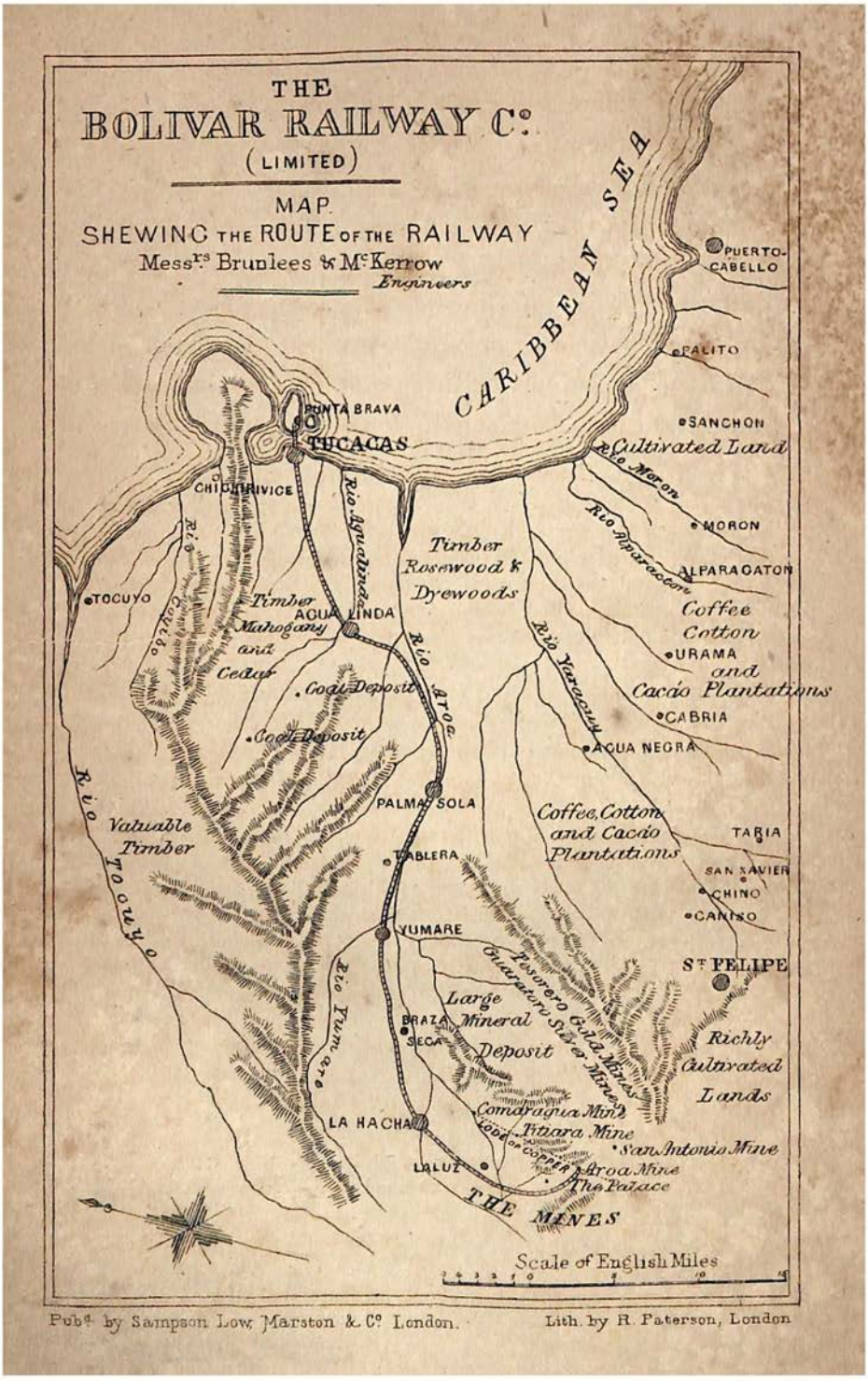
At Cojoro, on the coast of the peninsula of Goajira, there is an excellent natural harbour, that by a comparatively short railway could be connected with Maracaybo so as to make the former place the port of the latter. The exportation of valuable timber would then be possible on a large scale. There is also wanted a railroad from the east coast of the lake to

* The particulars given in the text respecting the Curamichate coal mines are gathered from a report furnished by Mr. Hûbel, who was specially engaged to examine the district in which they are situated by Mr. Leseur and myself.

the foot of the sierras of Betijoque, by which the produce of the interior could be brought to Maracaybo for exportation. Add to this the navigation of the lake by steamers, and the industries and agriculture of the States of the Cordillera would receive an immense impetus.

So convinced was I of the commercial importance of this scheme that, after a careful calculation of the expenses that would have been involved in carrying it into effect, I made an application to Congress, in conjunction with Mr. A. Boyer of Paris, for a concession of exclusive rights for forty years; freedom from all national and local taxes; and a grant of government land; in return for which the railway was to become the property of the nation at the end of that term. The matter did not come up for decision until after my departure from Venezuela, when certain local jealousies succeeded in "burking" the scheme in Congress, by a process similar to that so-called in the English House of Commons. Mr. Boyer, whose personal knowledge of the district extended over a period of twenty years, is of opinion that the *Maracaybo and Cojoro Railway and Harbour Project*, if properly carried out, would yield a profit of nearly 30 per cent., after making provision for all possible expenses.

The copper mines of Aroa, once the property of Bolivar the Liberator, now belong to an English joint stock enterprise, the New Quebrada Company, Limited. The veins or deposits of copper are considered to be practically inexhaustible, and can be worked at little cost for many years to come by adit



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levels, without the necessity of either pumping or raising machinery being called into requisition. The late Lieutenant-Colonel Strange, F.R.S., in 1871 estimated an output of 20,000 tons per annum, which in future years he thought could be greatly augmented. To aid in the development of the rich deposits a railway has been projected, and is now in course of construction to run from the mines to the port of Tucacas in the Caribbean Sea.* The length of the line will not ex-

* "The Bolivar Railway Company, Limited, with a capital of £350,000, has been formed for the purpose of constructing a line of railway, about 62 miles in length, from the port of Tucacas in the Caribbean Sea to the celebrated copper mines of Aroa, reputed to be the most extensive and the richest in the world. The mineral wealth of these mines is authenticated by the personal inspection of competent persons, including John Hawkshaw, late president of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

"The mines are situated about 1200 feet above the sea level; the deposit, a vast lode of about 100 feet wide, is worked by horizontal adits, and without any pumping or other expensive mining machinery, hence the ore, which is of a quality yielding from 15 to 40 per cent. of copper, and in some cases of a much higher per centage, can be raised at very small outlay. The realisation of the wealth of these mines has hitherto been retarded by the expense of bringing the ores to a port of shipment —the only means of transport being by mules and boats, involving great delay, and an expenditure incompatible with the profits.

"There are no engineering difficulties whatever throughout the entire line of the railway, which could be worked so as to yield profitable results on the copper ore tonnage alone, guaranteed as hereinafter mentioned by the New Quebrada Company.

"The New Quebrada Company, Limited (the proprietors of the land through which the railway will run), have agreed to lease the lands required for the construction of the railway and its accessories to the railway company for 999 years, at a nominal rent of £20.

"As security for dividends upon the share capital of this company, the New Quebrada Company bind themselves to deliver a minimum quantity of twenty thousand tons of copper ore annually, for transport by the railway, for which they will pay to the company £4, 5s. per ton, or £85,000 per annum.

"The following are additional sources of income which may be fairly

ceed sixty-five miles, and the mining company guarantees to the railway company a minimum goods traffic that will, it is anticipated, return about 10 per cent., whilst from other sources—timber, agricultural produce, and passengers—an additional 8 per cent. is calculated upon.

The Government of the republic is turning its attention to immigration. With a fresh influx of strong arms there would be some prospect of cultivating the vast fields of Venezuela, which now lie untouched. The republic participates in the common wants of all new countries, viz., peace, capital, and labour, but these she could easily obtain were proper measures adopted for their acquisition. Capital would flow into the country in abundance with peace, and a stable government resolved upon raising the fallen credit of the republic abroad. Labour is equally important, but by far the most difficult to obtain.

At first sight it seems strange that the tide of emigration from Europe should have turned in such a steady current to North America, whilst the more fertile lands of South America have received scarcely any of the surplus population of the old world. Yet if we reflect that Great Britain and Ireland are the

calculated on, viz.:—For all copper ore carried in excess of the above minimum of 20,000 tons, containing over 13 per cent. of copper, this company will be paid £3, 12s. 6d. per ton, and for ore of a smaller percentage a rate of not less than £2 per ton. In addition to copper ore, other mineral deposits, including gold, silver, and coal, are said to exist on the property of the company, which produces also, in almost inexhaustible quantities, valuable hardwoods and timber, such as rosewood, Lignum-vitæ, fustic, and mahogany."—*Extracted from the Prospectus of the Bolivar Railway Company.*

sources whence the larger part of these emigrants are drawn, it ceases to be a matter of astonishment. The rustic or mechanic, from either of these quarters going to North America, arrives in a country where his own language is spoken, and where the general structure of society is built up on the same traditions as those of the land he has left behind. The internal dissensions of the Latin republics have also helped to keep away the army of industry, whose soldiers were seeking, not for the laurel of glory, but for a place where they might sit under their own vine and fig-tree, no man making them afraid. Emigration to South America has rarely been attempted with success, and in the case of Brazil and Paraguay has proved a disastrous failure, hence it will be difficult to induce Englishmen to go to Venezuela, notwithstanding its vast natural advantages over other countries.

The only method of obviating the difficulty is for the Government to institute a few small experimental colonies—English, French, German, or Italian. In the case of the establishment of an English colony, the service of an English gentleman practically acquainted with agriculture should be obtained, who should be authorized to select a small band of mechanics and agriculturists to settle upon land provided by the state, thus forming the first colony. The greatest care would be necessary in the choice of locality, which should combine fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate; good roads being also indispensable. The colonists should be planted not very far from the capital of the country, and in a situation where, in

addition to farms, saw-mills and other industrial establishments could be worked by water power. The success of the experiment, certified by the British Superintendent of the colony, would quickly induce other emigrants to follow. Eight or ten families successfully established in the country would be sufficient to show the feasibility of Venezuelan immigration, and would be a complete answer to those who point to the failures of Brazil and Paraguay. Owing to the rapid succession of the crops in the republic the experiment would not take long to decide.*

In this way Venezuela may hope to attract the industrial force which is absolutely necessary to enable it to avail itself of the riches of its mountain slopes, broad valleys, and almost limitless plains.

We in England did a noble thing in aiding the colonies of South America to obtain their freedom from Spanish despotism, but had we, in addition to this, helped in the construction of railroads, erection of telegraphs, and other mighty instruments of progress, they would have been more blessed in receiving and we more profited in giving. Such investments would be far more beneficial to all concerned than the ordinary wretched foreign loans. My conviction of the truth of this principle led me to examine various plans which promised to be profitable if carried out.

Amongst the railway projects which have been

* In January 1874, a decree was passed by the Venezuelan Government appointing a Director of Immigration who should see to the distribution and settlement of European immigrants as they arrived in the country. The experiment has been very successful; during the twelve months ending April 30th, 1875, over 5000 arrived in the republic.

broached is one from La Guayra to Carácas.* The distance from the seaport to the capital is only 23½ miles, but the road lies over the coast range of mountains, and communication is therefore slow, and the transport of goods difficult. The grade of the road would vary from 0·93 to 3·50 per cent. The traffic is now very large, nearly all the coffee from the Central States being shipped from the port of La Guayra, which also forms the chief inlet of the republic for European productions.

* This railway is now in process of construction.

CHAPTER XII.

DEPARTURE.

"Ever in dreams thou comest. I may not trace
In waking hours the presence of that spell
Which holds me bound with such a winning grace—
Farewell!" —ANONYMOUS.

As the time for my departure drew nigh, I found myself in a continual bustle of excitement, making farewell visits and the necessary preparations for my voyage. Amongst the incidents of these latter days may be mentioned as a novel experience the lottery of the *Sociedad de Beneficencia.*

With those benevolent man-traps, the English bazaars, I was of course familiar, but the annual raffle of the Charitable Society of Carácas was managed in a different fashion to them. The intention of having such a *rifa* was publicly announced, and the donations of the benevolent solicited. The gifts did not as a rule take the form of money, but of a miscellaneous collection of articles. The names of the donors were daily printed in the local papers, with the number of things they had contributed. As soon as 2000 objects had been obtained, the list was closed, and the gifts arranged for exhibition, but there was none of that chaffering or enthusiastic display of extortion which goes on at an English bazaar; the only articles sold were

lottery tickets in sealed envelopes, the price being fixed at a low figure in order to tempt persons to buy a number of them, which it was necessary to do if a prize were desired; for two thousand prize-tickets had been mixed up with ten times that number of blanks. Half a dozen, generally, of the most graceful, amiable, and beautiful of the ladies of the capital stood behind a counter, like tellers in a bank, disposing of tickets, whilst the prizes, artistically arranged, formed the background. The Fates usually maintain in Carácas, as elsewhere, their very spiteful natures in assigning to the so-called lucky winners the most inappropriate articles.

On the 4th of August I called upon the President, but found him very unwell. We talked about emigration from Europe to Venezuela, and about railways, which would be immense boons to the country. He inquired if I could not do something in England to promote the construction of the railroad from Carácas to the coast at Cátea, which is intended to supersede the roadstead of La Guayra. After promising to do what I could in the matter,* some one in the company remarked that the fisheries of Barcelona would be a great source of profit to the state if they were properly developed. The President thought that fishing was an occupation for barbarous peoples. "The history of nations showed a succession of epochs in which they advance from fishing and hunting to

* On my return to England I broached the subject to one of the leading railway engineers in London, who entered fully into the matter, and would doubtless have carried out the plan he proposed, had not news arrived from the republic that the Government itself had undertaken to carry out the scheme.

pastoral life, and thence to agriculture, but the crowning glory of civilization is the epoch of manufactures." "Venezuela," said he, addressing himself to me, "is now in the agricultural period, but I hope that she will soon enter upon the industrial era, the stage at which your country has long ago arrived. I trust that we may imitate those arts of peace, and public virtues, which have made England great and famous."

The day following I received from the President an autograph letter, of which the following is a translation :—

"CARÁCAS, *August* 5, 1872.

"MY ESTEEMED FRIEND,—I return you many thanks for the map of the state of Apure by Count Codazzi.*

"I wish you a happy voyage home, and a quick return, with good results in the projects for the material development of Venezuela.

"From the Minister of Foreign Affairs you will receive the nomination of Venezuelan Consul in Manchester, and the diploma of the *Busto del Libertador*, Simon Bolivar, with which my country decorates those who serve her faithfully, and disinterestedly.

"The state of my health, as you know, is not good, and will naturally prevent me from accepting the invitation to the banquet with which you wish to honour me.—I am, &c., GUZMAN BLANCO."

At the same time I received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following gratifying letter (translation) :—

"UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA, BUREAU OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
CARÁCAS, *August* 6, 1872.

"SIR,—I have the pleasure of informing you that the President of the Republic has conferred upon you the distinction of the Order

* This map, which I presented to the President, was similar in character to the one of the province of Guayana, mentioned at page 101.

of the Bust of the Liberator, Simon Bolivar, the illustrious son of Carácas, and Liberator of Venezuela, Colombia, Equador, Peru, and Bolivia; a true hero and the founder of South American Independence.

"This Order, the noblest that can be conferred in the republic, is given as a reward for great services and distinction of every class.

"You have made yourself worthy of it by the repeated proofs you have given of interest for the progress of this country, and by the sympathy you have merited in it.—I have the pleasure of remaining, &c., ANTONIO L. GUZMAN."

The map referred to in the President's letter was an original production of the geographer Codazzi, delineating the State of Apure in much greater detail than in that published in his atlas.

The same day on which I received the letter from Señor A. L. Guzman I had a conference with this Minister on the general prospects of the country, and laid before him my views with great frankness: Venezuela being exceptionally well situated, I opined, only needed that the Government should administer the laws with equal justice to all, maintain peace throughout the land, and establish public confidence in the integrity of its financial administration, to insure its becoming the leading republic of South America. "Now that peace is established, with every probability of its duration, a most important thing to be done is to put Venezuela on a proper footing with her foreign creditors. No doubt the long civil war has exhausted the public treasury, but if the President were to strike out a bold line of policy, based on the moral right of the situation, and at once commence paying interest to the foreign bondholders, the result would be

an increase of confidence that would attract to the country the capital and industrial enterprise it so much requires. At the close of the American civil war there had been much talk of repudiation, a word unknown to the statesmen of Europe,* and there was no doubt that if such a policy had been carried out it would have proved most disastrous. I do not give the Americans credit for more honesty than the Venezuelans, but they have a clearer perception of the national injury which would result from breaking faith with their creditors."

I strongly urged upon the Minister that it was absolutely essential to the well-being of the country that it should fulfil promptly, and to the very letter, all the engagements into which it had entered abroad.

Señor Guzman listened to the very plain-spoken exposition of my views with great attention, and promised to bring them under the notice of his colleagues in the cabinet. This was my farewell visit to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The banquet mentioned in the President's letter, and which I proposed to give in honour of himself and his cabinet, took place on the 8th of August. Instead of attempting to chronicle it myself, I shall simply translate one or two paragraphs from the report of it which appeared in *La Opinion Nacional*:—

"Last night took place, at the Hotel Saint Amand, a splendid banquet, given by Mr. Spence in honour of the President and his Cabinet. General Guzman was unable to be present on account of the state of

* At the time this conversation took place Turkey and Spain had not attempted to repudiate their obligations.

his health, but all his Ministers, with two exceptions, were present. The guests were General José I. Pulido, Vice-President of the Republic; Señor Antonio L. Guzman, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Diego B. Urbaneja, Minister of the Interior and Justice; Dr. Martin J. Sanavria, Minister of Public Works; General Juan B. Garcia, Minister of War and Marine; Dr. Diego B. Bárrios, Secretary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Santiago Terrero de Atienza, Secretary of the Minister of Public Works; General Lino Duarte Level, Secretary of the President of the Republic; General Nicanor Bolet Peraza, Fausto Teodoro de Aldrey, Rafael Hernandez Gutierrez, Juan Rohl, General Juan F. Perez, John R. Leseur, H. L. Boulton, Carlos Hahn, F. J. Wallis, Dr. Modesto Urbaneja, General Leopoldo Terrero, Ramon Bolet, H. Gosewisch, Otto Becker, Dr. Ernst, H. Lisboa, Manuel Martel, Jacinto Gutierrez Coll; R. Terrero, and Alexander Boyer, jun.*

"The saloon in which the banquet took place was adorned with luxury and singular good taste. With the exception of the banners of England and Venezuela, which in the most conspicuous part of the room were interlaced in a trophied symbol, all the ornaments were composed of the choicest flowers of our gardens. It was a floral feast, whose delicious perfume filled the air, and whose precious colours enchanted the sight by the artistic combinations of their varied shades.

. . . . . .

"The host in dedicating the banquet to General Guzman Blanco and his worthy Ministry, mingled the most flattering expressions about the hospitality of the country, with hopes of a continuence of the prosperity which it is now achieving, under the enlightened and progressive administration of its present Chief-Magistrate. Other speeches were made which are worthy of being reproduced literally, but on this occasion, as on others, all were surpassed by the robust and brilliant oratory of the veteran Señor Antonio Leocadio Guzman.

. . . . . .

* I may here say that this list contains the names of gentlemen whose hospitality and courtesy, which I had many opportunities of proving, were conspicuous, and I feel sure that any stranger visiting Venezuela, and having the privilege of becoming acquainted with any one of them, will corroborate my testimony.

"Some strangers spoke upon Venezuela and praised the virtues of its people. Dr. Ernst, in phrases full of poetical power, attested to the high gifts of General Guzman Blanco, and painted in graphic terms his character and the great things which the country might hope from his enlightened administration."

. . . . . .

The day following the banquet (August 9, 1872)

MY LAST LOOK AT VENEZUELA.

was my last in Carácas and also in the republic. Friends and acquaintances came trooping in from all quarters to my rooms at the hotel to say farewell; this and my preparations for the voyage made me exceedingly busy, and very grateful for the kind aid of Bolet and Terrero. It was not until mid-day that

I was able to take my departure. Several carriages accompanied me to Cátea, where I bade good-bye to many friends, amongst them Mr. Leseur, whose partner, Mr. Gosewisch, came with me to England. General Nicanor Bolet Peraza, his brother Ramon, and some others, came on as far as La Guayra, where —with my servant, Miguel Gonzales, a Zulian, who had been very attentive to me at the hotel during my illnesses—I embarked at 4 P.M. The little mail-schooner "Guayreña," in which I had taken a passage, set sail for St. Thomas immediately after.

Venezuela, where I had landed eighteen months before, a perfect stranger, and where I had found many true friends, gradually receded from my sight. The Naiguatá became the only object visible, and long I gazed upon it, till at last, as night drew on, its towering peak sank below the horizon, and sea and sky alone remained. I had found the republic in the throes of civil war, when I left it was at peace. The remembrance of this sojourn in a life of travel and adventure will never be forgotten. Ever bright and fair in my memory will be the recollection of the lofty mountains, the blooming valleys, the glittering cascades, the luxuriant foliage, and, above all, the warm hearts of Venezuela.

APPENDIX.

A.

ANCIENT HISTORY OF VENEZUELA.

> "Man's inhumanity to man,
> Makes countless thousands mourn."
> —BURNS.

CRISTOVAL COLON on the third of his adventurous voyages was detained by a calm between Trinidad and the coast, and disembarking on the 1st of August 1498 at the mouth of the Drágo, explored the country to the point of Araya, and so earned the immortal glory of being the first European who had seen the continent of America. The following year the expedition under command of Alonso de Ojeda (which had for its object to continue and extend the discoveries of the great Admiral) came on the 24th of August to the lake and coast of Maracaybo. Finding the natives living in huts built on piles in the lake the *conquistadores* gave the name of Venezuela to the district. "Little Venice" is now a country larger than half-a-dozen European kingdoms. In the same year Cristoval Guerra's expedition discovered the coasts of Paria and Cumanagota (now Nueva Barcelona), the isles of Margarita and Cubagua, and went as far as the coast of Coro, when he determined to return to Spain on account of the ferocity of the natives of the districts where pearls were to be found, the obtaining of which was the sole object of his voyage.

Pedro Alonzo Niño, who was associated with this enterprise, has the honour of having been the first to make a mercantile transaction with the Indians of Venezuela. Those who preceded this (13th of February 1500), like many who followed, were simply

pillagers. Glass beads and bits of metal were sufficient to obtain from the Indians pearls and every variety of food which the country produced. The Indians, says Bartolomé de Las Casas, were very content, thinking that they had cheated the Christians; what the Christians thought is not recorded.

The most uncultivated and least civilized of the Indian tribes were those which inhabited Venezuela. Some symbolical designs traced on the granite rocks of the lower Orinoco, on the banks of the Casiquiare, and between the fountains of the Esequibo and of the river Brauco, are the only relics of the aboriginal civilization, and these may with more reason be attributed to a vanished race than to the wandering hordes who inhabited the district when it was first invaded by the Spanish *conquistadores.*

In 1502 Francisco Yanes y Pinzon crossed the equator and discovered Brazil, and afterwards going between west and north came to the equator again, where he noticed that the sea was composed of fresh water, and seeking the cause discovered the vast river of the Amazons which enters the ocean by a mouth of more than thirty leagues in extent. The sailors met with hospitable treatment which they repaid by taking into captivity thirty-six persons. This journey extended to 600 leagues, which, joined to the 400 explored by other navigators, gave full assurance that the New World was a true continent. Six years later was the voyage of Alonso de Ojeda, one object of which was to colonize the province of Coquibacoa, an attempt which proved unsuccessful. Succeeding efforts in this direction were weak in the extreme, for Venezuela was not rich in those mines of gold and silver which alone appeared to have interest for European avarice.

In 1512 a Dominican mission was founded in Cumaná, and with good results. The hardships to which the Indians were subject in Hispañola led to their extinction so rapidly that a slave trade sprang up which gave more than forty thousand captives to the oppression and cruelty which had destroyed their brethren. One of the ships engaged in this infernal traffic came to the coast of Cumaná, and after some days of mutually pleasant intercourse the Spaniards invited the cazique and his family (about sixteen persons in all) to come on board the ship. No sooner had they got their prey than they set sail for the island of Santo Domingo, where the cazique and his party were sold for slaves. The vassals thinking that the missionaries had been accomplices in the treachery determined to take revenge. The poor Dominicans

obtained a respite, during which they wrote to the chiefs of their order to use all the influence they could to obtain justice in the matter. They were so far successful that the prey was taken from the pirates and divided among the judges! The Indians remained in slavery, and the missionaries paid with their lives the cruelty and injustice of their countrymen.

The endeavours of Las Casas, the celebrated apostle of the Indians, to ameliorate the condition of the natives were unavailing, and his efforts to induce European labourers to settle had little success. The cruelties and oppressions of the *conquistadores* sometimes goaded the Indians to bloody reprisals, which were made the pretext of further tyranny. The Emperor Carlos V. issued a decree authorising the Spaniards to enslave without exception all the natives opposing the conquest. The coasts of Venezuela were in consequence infested with pirates, and these carried fire and death among the Indians. The outrages were so great that the Audiencia of Santo Domingo sent Juan de Ampúes to regulate affairs and see that the privileges of the *conquistadores* were not shared by obscurer wretches. Ampúes founded in 1527 the city of Santa Ana de Coro, and by fair treatment of the natives secured their friendship, and realized in some degree the benevolent plan of Las Casas.

In this same year Carlos V. made over to the Welsares of Augsburg the entire province of Venezuela, from Cabo de La Vela to Maracapana, in payment of the loans he had contracted with them. The grant was accompanied by the condition that they should populate the country and build fortresses. They were empowered to appoint a governor (with the title of Adelantado), and to reduce to slavery all the Indians who refused obedience. Ambrosio de Alfinger was the first governor under this arrangement, and well he carried out his instructions, by immediately entering upon a course of cruelty and oppression. His band of soldiers scoured the country in search of gold, slaves, and pearls. His outrages and excessses were infamous. His course at every step was attended with robbery, murder, and incendiarism. Those whom he could not enslave he slew, that which he could not pillage he burnt. After three years of murder and bloodshed Alfinger was wounded by the Indians, and died in three days. The expedition returned to Coro in 1532.

The second governor, Jorge Spira, less cruel perhaps than Alfinger, arrived at Coro in 1534, and went on a progress of

conquest with an army of 400, of whom, in 1539, only ninety returned, the remainder having perished either in conflicts with the Indians or from the hardships of the journey.

Don Rodrigo de las Bastides, first Bishop of Coro, and governor *ad interim*, sent out a band of soldiers in search of the fabulous El Dorado. In the narratives of the Indians there were continual references to a distant land where gold abounded in extravagant prodigality. Here dwelt a king or priest whose body was gilded each morning with powdered gold by means of an odoriferous resin, which was washed off at night! This fruitless expedition of Urre, as the Spaniards call Philip von Huten, was marked by the same want of principle and inhumanity towards the Indians that had marked those of Alfinger and Spira.

The eighteen years during which Venezuela was under the rule of the Welsares was a period of disaster for that unhappy country. The hatred against the company became intense, the land was becoming depopulated, and Coro was a mere slave-market. Las Casas gave eloquent expression to the general indignation, and at last Carlos V. annulled the grant and sent out as governor of the province *Licenciado* Juan Perez de Tolosa. Under his rule things were managed better, yet even he sent out military expeditions which had no other results than the destruction of parts of the country. Tolosa died whilst on his way back to Spain, on furlough, in 1548. His delegate, Juan Villégas, succeeded to power, though not without some disputes with the local authorities. He set his face more firmly than his predecessor against marauding expeditions, and encouraged the foundation of towns. A gold mine was discovered in the valley of Nirgua, and led to the foundation, in 1552, of the city of Barquisimeto or Nueva Segovia, but the opposition with which the founders were harassed by the Indians caused its abandonment. He succeeded better in founding the city of Nueva Valencia, which stands in the same beautiful fertile valley where in 1555 Alonso Dias planted its first stone.

The valley of Maya had long attracted the attention of the Spaniards, but the Carácas people, although divided into many tribes and nations, were united in the defence of their independence, and were unconquered. Francisco Faxardo, who first attempted to place a Spanish colony in this valley, had everything in his favour. He himself was the son of a Caráca, and had married the niece of the chief of one of the principal tribes: moreover,

he spoke several of the Indian dialects. He went with several servants, and was very cordially received by the relations of his mother, especially by his uncle Naiguatá, whose name appears to have been given to the mountain which towers above the valley of Carácas. On a second expedition he was accompanied by his mother, and had obtained full powers from the Spanish authorities to treat with the Indians. This was enough to excite the suspicion and enmity of the natives. As soon as they found that Faxardo was an instrument of the aggrandizing policy of the invader, the common ties of blood and language were insufficient for his protection; they rose against him, poisoned the waters, cut off his supply of provisions, and harassed him in every way until he was glad to escape to the shore in the darkness of night and sail back to Margarita.

Soon after the foundation of Valencia, Villacinda (who followed Villégas) died in Barquisimeto, and the subordinate magistrates who remained in the full exercise of their powers were anxious to make this interregnum memorable by some action useful to the Spanish power. This desire turned attention to the subjugation of the Cuicas, who were believed to inhabit the fertile regions which runs from Carora by the north, south to the Sierras of Merida. Diego Garcia de Parades, who was charged with this enterprise, went from Tocuyo with seventy men, twelve horses, and a good number of Yanacona Indians, traversed the entire land of the Cuicas, who willingly allowed him to choose whatever land he desired for his colony, and accordingly, in 1556, he commenced the building of a town which he called Trujillo. It can scarcely be said to have reached the dignity of a town, for the natives, exasperated by the misconduct of the Spaniards during a temporary absence of Parades, opposed the colonists so violently that they returned to Tocuyo. Francisco Ruiz was appointed to succeed Parades and headed an expedition to subdue the Cuicas. Soon after leaving the Valle de Boconó he encountered Juan Maldonado, in command of a party bent upon the same errand, who had come from the newly-founded city of Merida. Disputes ensued that led to the rebuilding of Trujillo, which Ruiz, perhaps to pique the real founder, re-named Miravel. It did not long retain the name, for when the successor of Villacinda came, he restored Parades, who, however, experienced further troubles which at last led him to abandon Trujillo. The situation of the Spanish

colony was several times changed, but in 1570 the wandering town came to anchor at last and began to make rapid advances in prosperity, so that it became one of the most prosperous in South America. The fame of its wealth and prosperity led to its destruction, for a century later Grammont the pirate sacked the place, killed or put to flight its inhabitants, and burnt to ashes its finest buildings.

Faxardo made a third attempt at conquering the Carácas Indians, and armed with full power from Collado, the new governor, he left Margarita. He landed at Chuspa early in 1560, and, thanks chiefly to his friendship with Guaimacuare, a cazique, he traversed the valley of Maya, but rather as friend than conqueror. Continuing his route to the valleys of Aragua he met with some opposition, but arranged a treaty with his opponents. He founded a town near the bay of Caravalleda which he named Collado, in honour of the Governor, and continued his search in the valley of San Francisco for a gold mine of which he had received some intelligence. His success in discovering this mine was the cause of his subsequent misfortunes. Collado revoked the grant which had been made to Faxardo, but this injustice was of little profit, for those who were sent to supplant him, were unable to protect themselves against the incursions of the Indians, and at last the mine was abandoned, and is only memorable for the fact that the mining village occupied the site where Carácas now stands.

Faxardo was in the meantime engaged elsewhere contending against the atrocities committed by the tyrant Aguirre. Finding little success in Caravalleda, he returned to Margarita, but again sailed to the mainland to renew his attempt. This time, to avoid encounters with his old Indian enemies, he resolved to disembark near Cumaná, which was under the rule of Alonso Cóbos, a declared enemy of his, but who invited him in a friendly manner to his house. Cóbos deserves a special niche of infamy, for when he had Faxardo secure in his hold, in defiance alike of hospitality and humanity, he had him hanged, and helped with his own hands in the murder of his guest.

The advantages which Carácas offered were too great for the non-success of Faxardo to delay its conquest long. Accordingly, under the governorship of Ponce de Leon, Diego Losada, in 1567, set out from Tocuyo, and proceeded to Nirgua, where he left the expedition for a time in charge of Juan Maldonado, and turned to Borburata in search of Juan de Sálas, who had promised

to join him with a hundred Indians from Margarita. In this manner Losada wasted fifteen days without having met Sálas. His troops consisted of 150 Spaniards and 800 Indians, and were well provided with animals destined for their food. They marched to the rising ground of Teperayma without encountering a single native with whom to speak. To this solitude and silence they gave the name of the Valle de Miedo (Valley of Fear). The silence did not last long, for soon the invaders heard the mountain echoes ring with the shrill notes of the *conchas* with which the Indians sounded the alarm. The noise frightened the animals upon which the Spaniards were depending for sustenance, and they fled in all directions. When the men went to try to recover them they were attacked with great fury by the Indians. To have followed the natives to their mountain fastnesses would have been a fruitless attempt. The Spaniards encamped, but hunger drove some of them forth in an endeavour to get some birds which were visible at a short distance. These had been placed there by the Indians to entrap their enemies into an ambuscade. In a fight which ensued the victory was with the Spaniards, though it cost them the life of Francisco Marquez. But still greater perils were in store, for the invaders now approached the gorges of Lagunetas, where the Arbacos Indians were known to be not only brave and warlike but still full of that resentment and hatred which had caused the non-success of former expeditions. Losada marched so quickly that it was not until he had reached the valley of San Pedro that the Indians met him in battle. Here he encountered the hitherto unconquered Guacaipuro, who was at the head of some 8000 men. The Indians suffered a most sanguinary defeat; whilst the little army of Losada was comparatively uninjured, although, for a time, the issue of the battle seemed doubtful. Losada pushed on for some time, and tried to get on a friendly footing with the natives, but he found them deaf to his charming. Maldonado with eighty men was surrounded by some 10,000 Indians, and would certainly have perished if Losada had not come to his aid.

The resistance made by the natives convinced the conqueror that he must have some town which might serve for a base of operations or to cover a retreat, and with this view he founded in the valley of San Francisco the city of Santiago de Leon de Carácas, the future capital of Venezuela.

This was towards the end of the year 1567. The Spanish colonizers seem to have made small work of founding towns and cities. "As soon as the site of a city had been chosen and a gallows erected there, with the formalities which the law required, the place was called a city, and a municipality appointed before a single hut was erected." * The young town had much to fear from the deadly enmity of Guacaipuro, who endeavoured to form a league amongst the Indian chiefs against the power of the Spaniards, and in 1568 succeeded in this design. Chance revealed to a foraging party of Losada's the presence of large troops of armed Indians. Finding that their plans were discovered some of the natives withdrew, but Guacaipuro led the rest to the attack of Carácas. The Indians were defeated, and their heroic chief, whose crime was that of loving liberty too well, was slain in the fight by Francisco Infante, one of the first alcaldes of Carácas. The victory was decisive, and insured the security of the rising town. It made rapid progress in importance.

The city of Caravalleda was rebuilt and served for a commercial port in place of Borburata, which had been abandoned in consequence of the ravages committed by the buccaneers. The Spaniards from 1531, and for twenty years subsequently, attempted to conquer the eastern part of the province, which from Maracapana formed the jurisdiction of Cumaná.

The discovery of lands watered by the Orinoco, and the searches for El Dorado (although unsuccessful and productive of great suffering and evil at the time) constantly enlarged the boundaries of the geographical knowledge of the conquerors, and brought to light those wide extended table-lands, which, under the name of the *Llanos*, now form an especial feature in the prosperity of Venezuela.

Don Diego de Ordaz was the first to explore the Orinoco, and after losing many men by sickness and in fights with the Indians he reached Uriaparo, and from thence proceeded to Caroan, always hearing from the natives of a land, still further off, blessed with innumerable riches. Avarice, and dislike to the idea that the Indians should suppose him afraid to push his discoveries in the direction they had indicated, induced him to send Juan Gonzalez, who returned in a short time after having discovered Guayana, where he had been very well received by the aborigines. The gold-fever led Ordaz to ascend the river, and though in a constant

* Southey's *Expedition of Orsua*, 1821.

struggle with currents, insects, sickness, hunger, and the opposition of the natives, he persevered in his route. Having proceeded as far as the mouth of the river Meta, he returned to Uriaparo and thence back to Cumaná. The only reward he received for his laborious and dangerous expedition was to be despoiled of his conquest by Don Antonio Sedeño and Don Pedro Ortiz Matienzo, who had obtained an order to send him back to Spain. On this ill-fated voyage he is said to have been poisoned by Matienzo, who had him in charge.

Gerónimo Ortal obtained authority to continue the conquest of Nueva Andalucia, and in 1535 committed the charge of the expedition to Alonzo de Herrera, who explored the Orinoco, following the route of Ordaz. The adventurers would have perished from hunger but for the gratitude of a cazique of Cabritu, who in return for their restoration to him of a son whom they had rescued from the Caribes, furnished them with provisions for several days. They now pushed along the Rio Meta, but in place of a land rich and civilized, full of gold and pearls, which they had hoped to find, they encountered only tribes of warlike Indians who harassed them at every step. In one of the many encounters Herrera met his death-wound, and Don Alvario de Ordaz (nephew of the unfortunate Don Diego) thought it most prudent to abandon the enterprise, and returned to Cubagua more than half-starved, and in a state of extreme misery. The expedition under Sedeño was equally fruitless. The wild search for El Dorado was the origin of all these enterprises; to this fable is due all the inland discoveries of the Spaniards. Yet the repeated failures were ineffectual to repress the endeavours of the *conquistadores* to reach the land of gold.

In 1568 Don Pedro Malaver de Silva received powers to conquer Omagua and El Dorado for an extent of 300 leagues; whilst Don Diego Fernandez de Cerpa had a similar grant of the country from Boca del Drágo to the confines of Silva's territory. Silva's expedition was a complete failure; many deserted, the forces broke up, and Silva returned to Spain, whence, in 1574, he again led a party of *conquistadores*, who landed on the coast between the Orinoco and the Amazon. The entire expedition, including two daughters of Silva, were destroyed, some perishing by disease, others by the hands of the Caribes. The only exception was Juan Martin de Albujar, who after ten years' captivity amongst the Indians managed, through

many dangers and hardships, to reach Margarita in a canoe. The fate of Cerpa was equally hard. He landed in 1569 on a part of the coast held by the Cumanagotos, whom the past bad faith of the Spaniards had converted into bitter enemies. He founded the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, but the Cumanagotos uniting with the Chaymas were able to bring a force of about 10,000 men against the 400 Spaniards, and in the battle which followed Cerpa was killed, his party utterly routed, and the *ciudad* destroyed soon after.

The expedition of Ursua forms one of the most romantic episodes in the history of Spanish America. Pedro de Ursua was a young and chivalrous knight, and took with him Doña Inez de Atienza, "with the intention of marrying her, as she was a spirited and beautiful woman." The expedition set out from Lima, and numbered about 300 men, many of them turbulent spirits who had been concerned in the various troubles and rebellions in Peru. It has been thought that the Viceroy of Peru, although sharing the common belief as to the rich land of El Dorado and anxious for its discovery, was probably still more anxious to get rid of these unruly soldiers. The little army made their way to the river Orellana (Amazon), but the dangers and sufferings to which they were exposed raised a dangerous spirit of discontent. This led to a plot, in accordance with which Ursua was attacked and murdered by a band of mutineers, who also killed Vargas, his lieutenant-general. They then appointed Don Fernando de Guzman commander of the expedition, whilst Lope de Aguirre, who had been the soul of the conspiracy, received the appointment of *Maestre del Campo*. The most particular friends of Ursua were slain, and those who remained were convinced of the uselessness of any attempt to alter the new state of things. Guzman had a document drawn up in which all that could be said against Ursua was set down for the justification of those who had slain him. This was to be signed by all the expedition. When it came to the turn of the "maestre del campo," he signed his name "Lope de Aguirre, the traitor." After some more quarrels and murders, the *desperados* formally renounced their allegiance to the King of Spain, and hailed their general by the lofty title of Don Fernando de Guzman, by the grace of God, Prince of Tierra-firme and of Peru. They constructed two brigantines, in which, and in canoes, they purposed to make for Margarita. This brought the time to about April

1561, and the new-made prince was not without some compunctions for the past and apprehensions for the future, as it became increasingly manifest that the real master was Lope de Aguirre, whose force of character and utter want of scruples gave him a great advantage over the weak puppet-king whom he had set up.

Salduendo, the captain of Don Fernando's guard, was making arrangements for the lodging of Doña Inez and her *mestiza* companion in the brigantine, but Aguirre would not allow the mattresses intended for their use to be placed on board. Irritated at this he used some expressions which, being repeated to Lope, filled his dark soul with fury, and with a band of his followers he attacked Salduendo, and murdered him in the presence of "Prince" Fernando, who vainly endeavoured to save him. Next he sent two of his men to kill Doña Inez, which they did, mutilating the body "in such a barbarous manner, that after her death even the most hardened men in the camp, at sight of the mangled victim, were quite broken-hearted, for this was the most cruel act that had yet been perpetrated." Friends of Don Fernando had previously resolved to kill Aguirre, but the kingling had become so listless and timid that they joined the opposite party, and revealed the project to him. This decided the traitor, and Don Fernando and some friends of his were slain by Aguirre's party. The place where this bloody deed was done received the name of the Village of the Butchery.

Aguirre now assumed the chief command, and ordered that henceforward no one should speak privately with his comrades upon pain of death. As the expedition pursued its way down the river, it encountered many difficulties. On the slightest pretence Aguirre would have persons put to death who were in any degree obnoxious to him. The bloodthirsty wretch seems to have had a homicidal mania, and was ever on the look-out for victims.

This strange army sailed into the Sea of the North on the 1st of July 1561. The traitors made for the Island of Margarita; Aguirre, before landing, strangling two of his men, as he was afraid they would denounce him to the authorities. One of his vessels by stress of weather had been driven into another port. Aguirre sent a messenger to apprise those on board where to join him. This messenger had also a commission to strangle another person who had excited the tyrant's fears. The governor came to meet the strangers, who de-

clared themselves only in want of provisions, which they were willing to pay for. Aguirre obtained permission for his "soldiers of Peru" to perform some military manœuvres before the governor. The only military manœuvre was to take the party of Margaritans prisoners! He then proceeded to the city, robbed the royal treasury, and commenced a mad rule which earned for him the name by which he is best remembered—El Tirano.

The rulers of the city were taken prisoners; the houses of the citizens were sacked, their lands wasted, and their wives and daughters violated. Aguirre killed several more of his followers, amongst them a leader named Turriaga, whom he afterwards buried with great funeral pomp.

He also caused the governor and his companions, the alcalde and the alguazil, to be murdered; after which, although it was now midnight, the traitors were summoned by "El Tirano" to attend in the room where the bodies had been placed.

Having raised the mats which covered the bleeding corpses, Aguirre made an oration to his men, in which, after recounting the various crimes which they had committed, he bade them not deceive themselves with any hope of pardon.

Meanwhile the news of these strange outrages had spread to the mainland, where the liveliest apprehensions were felt lest this beast of prey should throw himself upon their coasts. The "Provincial" sailed to Margarita, and having come within sight of Lope and his men, and exchanged letters with him, sailed back again.

His barbarities went on without intermission. To-day it was an old man, to-morrow a friar. Neither age nor sex were any protection against his bloody orders. His "maestre del campo" was brutally murdered on a charge of conspiring against Aguirre, who bitterly reproached Llamoso (one of the murderers of Doña Inez) with ingratitude, for having taken part with Martin Perez.

Llamoso protested his fidelity, and to prove it "he rushed upon the body of Martin Perez, which was almost cut to pieces, and before those who were present, he threw himself upon it, shouting—

"'Curse this traitor, who wished to commit so great a crime! I will drink his blood!' and, putting his mouth over the wounds in the head, with more than demoniacal rage he began to suck the blood and brains that issued from them, and swallowed what he sucked, as if he were a famished dog."

Aguirre now embarked his men, reaching the shore by a ladder

from an opening high up in the fortress, to avoid the arrows of a party headed by Faxardo, who had come to see what they could do against the traitors. Aguirre murdered his admiral as a commencement of the voyage. The port of Borburata was reached on the 7th of September. Soon after he burnt his vessels to cut off all hope of escape by sea for his desperate followers. The wretches committed all kinds of excesses, and marched towards Valencia, and from thence to Barquisimeto, where the forces of the colony had been hastily gathered together. In the then infant state of the colony—it was only a tiny contingent that each settlement could furnish, so that—the handful of desperadoes led by Aguirre were really to them a formidable enemy. When Don Diego Garcia de Paredes went out to reconnoitre the camp of the traitor he had with him fifteen men; and his general, who remained in Barquisimeto, had an army of seventy men, armed with two arquebuses, one of them without a lock. Paredes came within sight of Aguirre, but thought it best to retire, leaving letters of pardon addressed to the traitor and his men, who were exhorted to return to their allegiance. He managed, however, to detach four horses loaded with ammunition, which was very welcome to the Royalists.

Pablo Collado, the governor, had retired to Tocuyo, and was not at all anxious to take an active part in the campaign against "El Tirano," but Don Pedro Bravo, who had brought more succours from Merida, urged him to be present in the royal camp that he might be ready to treat with the traitors. Bravo and his men appear to have had some amusement from the cautiousness of the governor, which was greatly increased when on their march they met a messenger from Lope to Collado, who, while shaking with fear, expressed his sorrow that he was not permitted to settle the matter by a single combat with the tyrant.

Things were now approaching their end. Lope de Aguirre had entrenched himself, but his fears, well grounded, of desertions made a long resistance impolitic. A series of skirmishes ensued, the advantages being chiefly on the king's side. Lope now proposed to strangle all the unwilling and the sick amongst his followers, but was dissuaded from this project.

On the 27th October 1561 he disarmed the greater part of his soldiers, upon which they said that he was taking them to be slaughtered, and were so determined in their attitude that he

returned their weapons and asked them to pardon "the only error he had committed during the whole expedition." He was anxious to execute one of his captains, Espinola, but no one would help him to do it. This captain with his troops then joined the Royalists, and others of Aguirre's soldiers, under pretence of attacking the enemy, marched out in the sight of "El Tirano" and joined the forces of Bravo, shouting "Long live the king to whose service we come." In this manner Aguirre, who stood outside his entrenchment watching the operations, saw all his men desert him except Llamoso. The tyrant asked him why he also had not joined the king's party, but without paying attention to his protestations of fidelity, he went in to the apartment of his daughter. "Commend thyself to God, my daughter," said he, "for I am about to kill thee that thou mayest not be pointed at with scorn, nor be in the power of any one who may call thee the daughter of a traitor." A woman who was with the girl strove to save her and snatched the loaded arquebus from the hands of the traitor, but he drew his poniard and slew his daughter with it. As the forces of Bravo entered the room, he threw down his arms, and stood in a dejected manner by the side of a bed which was in the room. The first man that approached was a sword-cutler, who cried out, "Here have I Aguirre as my prisoner," but "El Tirano," with the national hauteur of his class (he was nobly born), replied, "I do not give myself up to such a villain as you," and seeing that Parades had entered the room, added, "Señor maestre del campo, I beg that you who are a caballero will respect my rank and listen, for I have many important things to say for the good of the king's service." Parades was inclined to retain him alive, but the soldiers, especially his former followers, who knew what dreadful revelations he could make, were clamorous for his instant death. The "maestre del campo" was not urgent to save his life, and the traitor was shot by two of his former soldiers, whilst a third cut off his head, and holding it by its long hair carried it out to meet the governor who was just arriving on the scene of action.

Such was the strange career of the tyrant Lope de Aguirre, in the narration of which numerous murders committed by him have been omitted. The letter addressed by him to the king of Spain, as well as his purposeless butcheries, would seem to indicate a mind diseased. His end was a very welcome one for

Venezuela, as he had inflicted great ravages both in Margarita and on the mainland. His memory was long held in execration, and the fiery vapour of the llanos, which answers to our will-o'-the-wisp, was long known to the peasantry by the name of "The Soul of the Tyrant Aguirre."

The valour of Don Garcia Gonzales de Silva, the nephew of the ill-fated seeker for El Dorado, was at this juncture of great service to the colony, for called to the military leadership he succeeded in reducing to obedience many of the warlike Indians; amongst them the Taramaynos, the Teques, the Mariches, and others, who had harassed the *pobladores*. The comparative tranquillity which ensued encouraged the foundation of new towns and cities and gave greater security to the Spanish conquest.

The lake of Maracaybo early attracted the notice of the Spaniards. The lake-dwellings of the Indians suggested to Alfinger the name of Venezuela, or little Venice, which was afterwards applied to all the province, but it was not until 1568 that an establishment was attempted upon its shores. Don Alonso Pacheco, with two brigantines, cruised about the lake, and after three years of constant struggle with the Indians, founded the city of Nueva Zamora in 1571. In the next year Don Juan de Salamanca traversed, without opposition, the country Curarigua, where he founded the city of San Juan Bautista del Portillo de Carora (Baraquigua).

In these wars the Indians often displayed, in individual cases, a valour and intrepidity, and a greatness of soul, equal to any of the renowned heroes of antiquity. On one occasion Garcia Gonzales had prisoner an Indian chief named Socoraymo, with three companions. As the Spaniards were much harassed by the arrows of the Indians he threatened that unless Socoraymo commanded them to cease firing he would have the four impaled. The Indian patriot undaunted by this inhuman threat raised his voice, and called upon his people to charge upon the Spaniards, and animated them by an assurance of victory if they did so. Garcia Gonzales was not insensible to bravery in a foe, and revoked the order which he had given, but it was secretly carried out by his soldiers. This caused great dismay amongst the Indians, and when the wife and children of one of the chiefs were sent back from their captivity, a treaty of peace was made and faithfully adhered to by them.

The subjugation of the Quiriquirès and Tomuzas was intrusted

to Francisco Infante, but illness obliged him to leave the command to Francisco Calderon, who entered by the valley of Tacata, and, following the margins of the Tuy, took possession of all the Sabana de Ocumare, where he would have founded a city but for the opposition of his companions. Calderon was succeeded by Francisco Carrizo, whose bad government nearly drove the Indians to revolt, and it was only prevented by the prudence of Garcia Gonzales. To liberate the province from the incursions of the Caribes, and to subjugate the Cumanagotos who, since their defeat of Cerpa, had stopped all colonization in Cumaná and put an end to the pearl trade on the coast, an expedition set out under the command of Garcia Gonzales, who left Carácas in 1579 with 130 men, and making for the valleys of Aragua (and then crossing the llanos of Guarico) he came to Orituco. His intention in making this long detour was to surprise the Cumanagotos, but in this he was unsuccessful, and although he routed their army of 3000 men near Rio Unare, the only advantage he obtained from his victory was to establish the small town of Espíritu Santo, which had to be abandoned in consequence of another battle in which the Indians brought 12,000 men into the field. At the return of Gonzales to Carácas, there occurred a calamity which threatened the depopulation of the country. A Portuguese ship came to Caravalleda in 1580, and brought with it an epidemic of small-pox which inflicted frightful ravages on the colony. Entire tribes of Indians were destroyed by this dreadful disease. The cruelties and oppressions of the Spaniards are, it is said, less responsible for the total disappearance of entire races than this terrible distemper. When the scourge had somewhat abated Garcia Gonzales was induced to leave the retirement in which he was living, in order to punish the Caribes who were threatening Valencia and the districts near Carácas. In this he was successful, and at the same time he also impressed the Quiriquires sufficiently with the Spanish power to allow Sebastian Diaz to found the city of San Juan de la Paz at the junction of the rivers Tuy and Guaire, a locality that was abandoned on account of its unhealthiness, the colonists moving to San Sebastian de los Reyes, founded by the same *poblador* in 1584.

As even Garcia Gonzales had been unable to conquer the hardy Cumanagotos, the next expedition against them took the shape of a punishment for its commander. Cristoval Cóbos, the son of the murderer of Faxardo, was condemned to undertake the war

against these warlike Indians as a penalty for his father's perfidy, and Don Luis de Rójas, the governor, assigned to him only 170 Spaniards and 300 Indians for the prosecution of a task which had been given up as hopeless by the greatest captain in the colony. Cóbos met Cayaurima at the head of 8000 Indians, and gave battle at the mouth of the river Neveri. The fate of the Spaniards was very doubtful, when two cavaliers, by a dashing exploit, took prisoner the Indian chief. A treaty of peace was concluded, and the conquerors founded, higher up the river, the city of San Cristoval de los Cumanagotos. Cóbos had strong feelings of resentment towards Rójas for sending him, as it appeared, to certain death, with such a handful of men against the large and warlike tribes who had hitherto defied the Spanish power; and gave expression to this feeling by placing himself and his new conquest under the command of Don Rodrigo Nuñez Lobo, the governor of Cumaná, thus circumscribing the limits of the governorship of Venezuela. Another act of Rójas led to the abandonment of the city and harbour of Caravalleda. The *cabildos* (municipalities) had always enjoyed considerable powers of self-government, and particularly that of electing their magistrates. The inhabitants elected the *regidores*, who regulated the local affairs, and nominated the alcaldes. This appears to have been undoubted right, both by law and custom, but Rójas in 1587 arbitrarily appointed the alcaldes of Caravalleda without any reference whatever to the local wishes. The inhabitants, unable to cope with the superior force, hit upon a most effectual and simple mode of resistance; their abandonment of the town was so complete, that they may be said to have blotted out the name of Caravalleda from the list of Venezuelan cities, and its ruins alone remain as a warning to those who would trample upon the rights of citizenship.

The port of La Guayra was founded in consequence of the unwillingness to return to the old site. Rójas was also in difficulties with his subjects, because he attempted to enforce the laws for the protection of the Indians, which his predecessors had allowed to sleep quietly in the statute-book. The Audiencia of Santo Domingo sent over a judge to inquire into his proceedings. As the judge had a considerable share in the fines which he inflicted, his inquiry was conducted with great vigour, so that at last the corporation of Carácas, foreseeing the ruin of their city, sent a deputation to the Audiencia, and ob-

tained his recall. He was superseded in 1587 by Don Diego Osorio. The task of Osorio was the reverse of easy. He came in the midst of discontent and disorganization, and had to deal with *conquistadores* not too scrupulous of the rights of others, with soldiers who had lost even the habit of discipline, and with the savages, who were at once objects of cruelty and fear. But the new governor gained the confidence of the people, and in 1589 the municipality of Carácas sent out an agent to the court of Spain to ask for the additional powers which Osorio deemed necessary for his task. The Venezuelan agent obtained, amongst other grants, the suspension of the excise for ten years, and the right to import, duty free, a cargo of negro slaves! It is not a little curious to find the name of Simon Bolivar borne alike by the enslaver of the blacks, and the liberator of the whites.

Osorio encouraged the peaceful occupation of the land, regulated the land-system, favoured the establishment of municipalities, congregated the Indians in villages, and in every way seems to have aimed at converting a colony of *conquistadores* into an industrious community of agriculturists and manufacturers. Whilst he was on a visit to the provinces, the famous Sir Francis Drake sacked the city of Carácas. The manners of the time were different no less in war than in peace, and Drake's mode of procedure was quite in accord with the customs, half-barbarous and half-chivalrous, of that era.

At the beginning of June 1595 he landed 500 men at La Guayra, which he occupied without resistance. Many of the inhabitants having fled to Carácas, Garcia Gonzales and Francisco Reballedo, the alcaldes, raised a force and marched down the great road to La Guayra, placing ambuscades in various places on their march. Meanwhile Drake had found a scoundrel named Villalpando base enough to sell his country, and under his guidance was marching by a secret path to the capital. Arriving there he found that all the men-at-arms had gone to give him battle at La Guayra, so that he had ample opportunity to plunder the city at leisure. They were not entirely unopposed, for an old caballero, Don Alonso Andres de Ledesma, rode out alone, lance in hand, to combat them. Drake, touched by the old man's courage, desired his soldiers to spare him, but it is no easy matter to save the life of a man who rides against five hundred. Ledesma was killed, but the English bore him to his grave with every mark of honour and respect, as was fitting

to so brave a knight. When Garcia Gonzales returned to Carácas he found the city plundered, and the English entrenched in the municipal buildings and parish church adjoining, whilst the traitor Villalpando was decorating a tree on which Drake had caused him to be hanged, as a fitting reward for his treachery. The Spaniards do not seem to have contemplated attacking Drake, but tried to starve him out, and posted ambuscades to harass him. However, at the end of eight days, he marched off in battle array with his booty, and reached his vessels without loss, burning and sacking whatever houses came in his way.

In 1597, Osorio was promoted to the presidency of Santo Domingo. His successor at Carácas, Lidueña, appears to have worked on the lines laid down by Osorio. Lidueña died in 1600, and was succeeded by Alonso Arias Baca. The progress of the province of Cumaná was slow. It was many years before its governor ruled two cities. In 1631 Don Juan de Urpin obtained authority to reduce the Cumanagotos, Palanques, and Caribes. With 300 men enlisted in the isle of Margarita and in Carácas, he crossed the llanos, and, at the cost of many bloody encounters, forced his way to Unare, thence to Uchire, and by the shore to San Cristoval, where his further progress was stopped by the intrigues of his enemies. To surmount these obstacles he proceeded to Spain, and got from the Council of the Indies the full authority he required. He returned to undertake his conquest anew, but the constant opposition of the Indians was too great for him to succeed. He founded several towns, which seem to have been somewhat nomadic in disposition. Nueva Barcelona owed its origin to him in 1637. If he did not succeed in conquering his warlike neighbours, he appears to have made a good trade by selling hides. The fertility of the country offered a reward to industry, which gradually led to an increase in the number of settlers and towns.

The conquest of Venezuela can hardly be said to have been completed before the end of the 17th century. It now remained for peace and good government to consolidate the work, which, if begun from cupidity and prosecuted in blood, had yet given bright examples of courage and endurance. The bad success which attended the early attempts to work the gold mines, can only be regarded as a piece of good fortune, since it prevented the colonists from abandoning the pursuit of agriculture and other peaceful arts, which, in the end, constitute truer riches than shining gold or glittering jewels.

It was whilst the eastern part of Venezuela was slowly becoming colonized, that the romantic incursion of Sir Walter Raleigh took place. The history of the fruitless expedition which he conducted to Guayana is too well known to need repeating here.

As the sword was found powerless to subdue the hardy Cumanagotos, it occurred to Francisco Rodriguez Leita that missionaries might succeed where fighting men had failed. In 1652 a *cédula real* prohibited further military expeditions against the Indians of Cumaná, and eight Franciscans were sent out to Christianize and civilize them. There seems to have been quite as much politics as religion at the bottom of these missions, for the first place chosen for their apostolic labours was the province of Barcelona, because its subjection would open out communications with the western shores of Venezuela, which had so far been prevented by the opposition of the Indians. These Franciscan settlements were divided into two classes; in those called *doctrina*, the Indians were held to tribute as direct vassals of the king, but in those called *misiones*, the preachers were the sole depositaries of power, and all other white persons were excluded from settlement or authority. At last, in spite of occasional martyrdoms, the Franciscans had founded thirty-eight pueblos, containing 25,000 inhabitants of the aboriginal races. This does not include the missionary labours in Guayana. But however excellent may have been the motives and conduct of the early missionaries they degenerated into instruments of extortion and oppression. Forbidden by the *cédula real* of 1687, which gave the Indians into their hands, to receive payment for the administration of the sacraments, they carried on an usurious trade in rosaries and images, and sometimes availed themselves of the simplicity of the Indians to abuse and oppress them, until it was no rare thing to see deputations of Indians coming to the capital, to seek redress from the civil authorities for the wrongs inflicted by their monastic rulers. Sometimes they would take a more summary course. In the following century these missions were deprived of their powers, by being subjected to the general ecclesiastical rule, in consequence "*de los males que sufrian los habitantes así en lo moral como en el politico.*"

Returning from this digression to the general history, it may be noticed that in the seventeenth century the province suffered from the French, who were twice driven from Cumaná, and who succeeded in sacking Carácas, and taking great booty in 1679; whilst

the next century saw several attempts by the English upon La Guayra, Puerto-Cabello, and Angostura.

The Compañia Guipuzcoana, formed in 1728, acquired the command of all the commerce between Venezuela and Old Spain. Whatever excesses these traders may have committed they certainly gave an important impulse to the commerce and agriculture of the colony. They introduced the culture of cacáo, and the valleys of Aragua received new fruits from them. The cultivation of añil and of sugar alternated in those smiling vales, and gave a great impetus to their social progress. Cargoes of tobacco, of hides, of indigo, of *dividivi*, and of other drugs showed that Venezuela was not dependent alone upon the cacáo as her sole product for export.

The Guipuzcoana Company having the entire monopoly of the trade soon forgot the moderation which had marked its early years, and its exactions and extortions became excessive. All the evils that a gigantic monopoly can produce were visible, and the complaints against it were loud and universal. Its misconduct reached a pitch which provoked a popular rising in 1749, and very nearly plunged the country into civil war. It was not until 1778 that this company was deprived of its monopoly, and then only to be replaced by the Compañia Filipinas, which, however, only lasted until 1780. The misfortunes of the French colony led to the extension of coffee-culture in Venezuela, and the mountains of Carácas were soon covered by the coffee plant, and the valleys of Aragua with the luxuriant verdure of the añil.

We now are drawing to the close of the colonial history of Venezuela, and it must be admitted that the rule of Spain had not been one to bring prosperity and contentment to the colony. Spain seems ever to have had in view the object of enriching the old country with the wealth of the colonies, in place of building up free and enlightened communities. Education offers a good test of her policy. Ignorance has ever been the ally of tyranny and misgovernment. It is impossible permanently to enslave an enlightened people. The first provision for education seems to have been a college-seminary, founded by the Bishop of Carácas in 1696, with nine professorial chairs. This college was for ecclesiastics alone; the laymen if rich *might* proceed to the universities of Santo Domingo, Mexico, or Santa Fé, if poor they *must* stay at home in ignorance. In 1724, after many applica-

tions, this college was converted by a royal charter into a university; a privilege confirmed in the next year by Innocent XII. The course of study was enlarged, and the new institution was a great advantage to the country. Moved by similar motives the inhabitants of Merida petitioned the court of Madrid to grant to their seminary a university charter. The two institutions mentioned were the only public schools which existed in the country. The reply of Carlos IV. to this request is the strongest condemnation of the principles upon which Spain ruled her dependencies. He refused their request "because His Majesty did not think it proper that education should become general in America."* This was at the commencement of the nineteenth century! The education of women was at an extremely low ebb; "for fear of illicit correspondence few of them were taught even to write." The printing-press was not introduced until the beginning of this century, and was subjected to a strict censorship which permitted very little that was of real use to appear. The first printers were two Englishmen, Matthew Gallagher and James Lamb, who came from Trinidad. It was chiefly used to spread false news about the state of Europe, lest the successes of France and the critical condition of Spain should lead to a revolt. There were not wanting, however, men who were working ardently for the spread of the education which the weak Spanish king thought improper for his American subjects. They must have sacrificed their loyalty on the altars of common sense. To Don Pedro Sojo is due the teaching of music in Carácas; to Rafael Escalona and Alexandro Echesuria the introduction of modern philosophy; to the brothers Uztariz the creation of a private literary academy, and to Sanz the diffusion of the science of political economy.

The immediate causes of the insurrection which deprived Spain of her South American possessions are not far to seek. The misgovernment under which they groaned was such as to excite bitter discontent, but their own monarch, and his ally Louis XVI., showed them how it might be remedied. It is not safe for despots to aid liberty in other countries. The revolt of the North American colonies from the English rule was aided and encouraged by the courts of Versailles and Madrid, and the republican spirit

* "Porque S.M., no consideraba conveniente el que se hiciese general la ilustracion en América." *Resumen de la Historia de Venezuela.* Por Baralt. Paris, 1841.

which they helped to bring into existence swallowed up the French monarchy and the Spanish colonies. The example of North America was always before their eyes, and in spite of the censorship and the low state of education the democratic teachings of the writers of France had prepared them to strike for liberty. As early as 1797, an unsuccessful republican movement was attempted by Gual and España. The latter, who was hanged and quartered on the *plaza* of Carácas a month before Humboldt's visit, uttered these prophetic words on the scaffold, "*No pasara mucho tiempo sin que mis cenizas sean honradas.*" In 1806 General Miranda, a native of Carácas who had served with distinction under the French republic, made an ineffectual demonstration which did not receive any popular support. Nevertheless, the Spanish rule was felt to be so insecure that Carlos IV. was advised to erect his American dominions into three kingdoms for his children.

The news of the disasters in Spain caused a reaction of feeling, and when the French commissioners arrived in 1808, although the captain-general was willing to acknowledge the French rule, the people rose in great enthusiasm, and took the oath of fidelity to the imprisoned Fernando VII. Various attempts were now made at Carácas to constitute a Junta, similar to those which were then governing Spain. One was at last formed and the captain-general exiled. The other important towns were invited to follow the example, and it was followed in many cases. The Junta of Carácas took in hand a good work. It abolished the excise on the necessaries of life, did away with the Indian tribute, forbade the importation of slaves, created a mathematical academy, and reformed many abuses in the administration of the laws. Some portions of the country declared for the regency, but those composing the Junta declared that they had as good a right to form a provisional government as their brethren in Spain, and turned their eyes to England as a power likely to aid them against the common enemy, and to be of service as a mediator with Spain. This mission was confided to Simon Bolivar and Luis Lopez Méndez, but met with little success.

Meantime, an event at Quito gave a new impetus to the spirit of the revolution. The Junta of that town, comprising many nobly born and wealthy persons, was overturned, and the Conde Ruiz de Castillo restored to his position as president, in consideration of his undertaking to grant a full amnesty to all

its late members. As soon as he received some auxiliary troops he broke his pledged word, and some seventy individuals were tried, and many of them condemned to death and confiscation of their property. The popular excitement became intense, and Ruiz threatened to put his prisoners to the sword in case of a disturbance. Nine men armed only with knives attacked the soldiers, who had committed grave outrages. The rioters were easily killed as the people had taken no part in their mad action. In retaliation twenty-eight of the prisoners had their throats cut, eighty people in the town were murdered by the soldiers, the richest houses were sacked; and the perpetrators of these brutal murders received the thanks of the Spanish Governor!

The excitement in Carácas was intense, and the Junta decreed funeral honours to the victims of Quito, but at the same time expelled three persons who had been conspicuous in the popular demonstration and indignation.

This was the last important civil movement previous to the events chronicled in the body of this work.

The character of the revolution was now completely changed.

The movement which at the commencement had been a revolt against the French usurpation in Spain, was now a struggle for independent national existence.

B.

LIST OF PLANTS OBSERVED IN LOS ROQUES BY DR. A. ERNST, *September* 1871.*

(A TRANSLATION.)

1. *Cakile æqualis. L'Her.* Very abundant in the sands of the shore.

2. *Euphorbia buxifolia. Lam.* With the preceding but rarer.

3. *Sesuvium portulacastrum. L.* Rare.

4. *Portulaca pilosa. L.* Rare.

5. *Suriana maritima. L.* Common name "Salcedo."

6. *Salicornia ambigua. Mich.* "Portuguesa."

7. *Batis maritima.* * *L.* "Vidrio."

8. *Lithopila muscoides. Sw.* The lower leaves which form stars are perfectly lineal and an inch (pulgada) in size; the upper leaves are smaller (3-10ths of an inch), and somewhat lanceolate. Very abundant in the crevices of the rock and on the road to the Light-house.

9. *Gossypium barbadense. L.* On one of the smaller hills there are ten or twelve rickety trees, which have no doubt been introduced.

10. *Corchorus hirtus. L.* Very rare.

11. *Pithecolobium unguis. Benth.* "Beeschy de Iguana" (Vainita de Iguana) as it is called by the people of Bonaire. Probably introduced.

12. *Rhizophora mangle L.* "Mangle colorado." Forms in many parts a dense woody veil on the borders of the isles. The wood is red, very hard, and makes an excellent fuel, for which reason the wood-cutters seek it. The shell of the mangle is used in tanning, and costs $25 per ton of 20 quintales in the dry goods stores of La Guayra. But as there are no bulky trunks in the islands, the exploration of the mangles is difficult and little remunerative.

13. *Laguncularia racemosa. Gr.* "Mangle blanco." Grows farther from the shores than the preceding species.

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* Printed in the first volume of the *Memoria de la Direccion General de Estadistica de Venezuela*, 1873, Part II., p. 174.

14. *Conocarpus erectus. L.* "Botoncillo." Both trees have bark which contains tannin.

15. *Melocactus communis. D.C.*

16. *Cereus Swartzii. Griseb* (?).

17. *Opuntia spinosissima. Mill.* These three "cacteas" grow on the hills in El Gran Roque. The last is a disagreeable obstacle in the ascent of these little heights, for it is abundantly armed with large thorns. The fishers have given it the curious name of *jonge frouwen, i.e.*, young ladies.

18. *Cordia cylindristachya. R.Br.* "Carischuri" in the patois of the fishers of Bonaire. It is the Cariaquito of Carácas.

19. *Tournefortia gnaphalodes. R.Br.* The fishers call it "Tabaco de pescadores," and chew its entirely insipid leaves when tobacco fails them.

20. *Avicennia tomentosa. Jacq.* "Mangle prieto," so called because the leaves turn black when dyed. The bark is used in tanning.

21. *Thalassia testudinum. Koen.* Near the north shore of Little Spar key, very plentiful, forming large submarine meadows. After some hours' search we were not able to find examples with either fruit or flowers.

22. *Sporobolus virginicus. Kth.* "Brack grass." Covers all the flat land in the eastern part of El Gran Roque.

23. *Eragrostis prolifera. Steud.*

24. *Cyperus brunneas. Sw.* On the sands of the shore.

25. *Cyperus cæsins. Beklr.* Not rare on the brows of the hill.

26. *Roccella tinctoria. Ach.* "Orchila." Rare in El Gran Roque, probably more plentiful in the island of Orchila, which owes its name to this plant.

A singular fact is the absence of *Coccoloba uvifera, Ipomœa pes caprœ*, and other seaside plants which abound on the shores of the neighbouring continent. Perhaps it is from the difficulty of the conduction of seeds; as the current (which is noticed on the coast running from east to west) is sufficiently strong to be an obstacle.

C.

ON SOME VENEZUELAN BIRDS COLLECTED BY MR. JAMES M. SPENCE. BY P. L. SCLATER, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S., AND OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.Z.S.*

Mr. James M. Spence, F.R.G.S., of Manchester, has been kind enough to submit to our examination a large collection of birds, partly made by himself during a recent visit to Venezuela, and partly obtained from a collector resident at Carácas.†

The collection contains 23 mounted and over 300 unmounted skins, referable to about 250 species. Only two of these prove to be absolutely new to us; but there are several others of sufficient interest to induce us to offer to the Society the following notes on them.

1. TURDUS OLIVATER (Lafr.); Sclater, P.Z.S. 1859, p. 333.

Mr. Spence's collection contains a single skin of this species, which, so far as we at present know, is confined to the neighbourhood of Carácas.

2. LOCHMIAS SORORIA, sp. nov.

Similis L. nematuræ, *ex Brasilia, sed paulo major, superciliis albis nullis, et maculis corporis inferioribus minoribus et magis elongatis: long. tota* 6·2, *alæ* 3, *caudæ* 1·7, *tarsi* 1.

Hab. Venezuela (*Spence*).

This is a northern representative of *L. nematura* of the wood-region of Brazil, and is closely allied to that species, although easily recognizable by the characters above given.

3. COCCYZUS LANDSBERGI, Bp. Consp. i. p. 112; Sclater, P.Z.S. 1870, p. 169.

A single skin of this rare Cuckoo in the collection is the only example we have met with besides one in the British Museum (men-

* From the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, May 20, 1873.

† Señor Carlos E. Rójas.

tioned P.Z.S. 1870, p. 169). The species appears to be restricted to Venezuela and the northern coast of Columbia.

4. MICRASTUR ZONOTHORAX (Cab.).

Mr. Spence brings us a fine adult specimen of this northern form of *M. ruficollis*, which agrees in every way with the points of distinction pointed out by Dr. Cabanis.* We had previously only seen immature examples.†

5. ARDEA HERODIAS, Linn.

The occurrence of this northern species so far south as Venezuela is a novelty to us. The most prevalent species in South America is *Ardea cocoi*, which extends into Guiana (Schomb. Guian. iii. p. 752). But *A. herodias* occurs in the Antilles and in the Galapagos (Scl. & Salv. P.Z.S. 1870, p. 323).

6. PORZANA LEVRAUDI, Scl. & Salv. P.Z.S. 1868, p. 452, pl. XXXV.

This is the only specimen of this distinct species we have met with, except the specimens in the Paris Museum, from which our description was taken. The bird may be distinguished at once from the allied *P. cayennensis* by the absence of the red crown and by the white throat and median line below.

7. PORZANA ERYTHROPS, Sclater P.Z.S. 1867, p. 343, t. 21; Scl. & Salv. P.Z.S. 1868, p. 457.

We are glad to get a Venezuelan specimen of this fine species, as it serves to confirm our notion (hesitatingly expressed, P.Z.S. 1868, p. 458) that Schlegel's *Porzana schomburgki* is referable to this species, and not to *Crex schomburgki* of Cabanis.

8. CRYPTURUS CERVINIVENTRIS, sp. nov.

Supra fuscescenti-cervinus fere unicolor, pileo obscuriore fere nigricante: subtus cervinus, in pectore saturatior, in ventre medio dilutior et albicantior: gula pallide cinerea: ventre imo tibiis et caudæ tectricibus inferioribus nigro undulatis: tectricibus alarum inferioribus albis: campterio intus obscure cinereo: remigibus intus pure cinereis, horum quarto quinto et sexto fere æqualibus et longissimis; rostro flavido, pedibus fuscescenti-corylinis: long. tota 10, *alæ* 5·8, *caudæ* 2.

Hab. Venezuela (*Spence*).

* Journ. f. Orn. 1865, p. 406.

† *Cf.* P.Z.S. 1866, pp. 254, 356.

Obs. Affinis *C. tataupæ*, sed pectore cervino et alis longioribus, necnon colore dorsi flavicantiore distinguendus.

There is unfortunately only a single and not very perfect skin of this Tinamou in Mr. Spence's collection. But it appears to belong to a species intermediate in size and coloration between *C. obsoletus* and *C. tataupa*. It is rather larger than the latter, but considerably smaller than the former species.

Bonaparte has described a *Crypturus cervinus* as an ally of *C. tataupa* (C. R. xlii. p. 954); but if the short characters given are correct, his species must be quite different from the present bird.

In concluding these remarks, we must not fail to acknowledge Mr. Spence's liberality in allowing us to select the specimens above noticed and other valuable skins from his collection.

D.

SERTULUM NAIGUATENSE:

Notes on a small Collection of Alpine Plants from the Summit of Naiguatá, in the Mountains of Carácas. By A. ERNST, Ph.D., &c. &c.

(*From the Journal of Botany, September* 1872.)

At a short distance towards the east from the well-known Silla de Carácas (2670 metres) rises the lofty mass of Naiguatá to the height of about 2800 metres, the most elevated mountain in the Venezuelan coast chain. Since Mr. Linden's partial ascent some twenty-five years ago no traveller had made the attempt to reach its top, which was generally believed to be next to inaccessible; but this was for the first time successfully achieved on the 23d of April 1872, by Mr. James M. Spence of Manchester, accompanied by Mr. A. Goering, an ornithological collector and skilful landscape painter, and five other gentlemen (R. Bolet, Hûbel, Lisboa, L. Terrero, and Dr. S. Vaamonde). A small collection of alpine plants from the summit, brought down rather as a *souvenir*, was submitted to my examination, and as it contains several interesting forms, I beg leave to publish the following notes. I hope myself to visit Naiguatá in the month of August, and shall then be able to give a complete account of its vegetation.

1. *Usnea ceratina*, Ach. Lich. Univ. 619. On the stems of *Befaria ledifolia*.

2. *Sticta laciniata*, Ach. Nyl. Syn. i. 354. On rocks.

3. *Frullania cylindrica*, Gottsche, Syn. Hepat. 458. A form certainly belonging to this very variable species was found on the stems of *Befaria*.

4. *Macromitrium longifolium*, Hk.; Mitten, Musci, Austro-Americani, in Journ. of Linn. Soc. xii. 210.

5. *Funaria hygrometrica*, Hedw.; Mitten, l. c. 246.

6. *Polytrichum aristiflorum*, Mitten, l. c. 620.

7. *Davallia concinna*, Schrad. Hook. Fil. 100. Sterile fronds. It is the form called by Hooker *D. Lindeni*, Spec. Fil. i. 193, t. 56, B.

8. *Blechnum serrulatum*, Rich.; Hook. Syn. Fil. 186, Spec. Fil. iii. 54. A barren frond, but perfectly agreeing with Schkuhr's plate 108.

9. *Lycopodium complanatum*, L., Spec. Pl. ed. Willd. vol. i. 19.

10. *L. clavatum*, L., l. c. vol. i. 16.

11. *L. taxifolium*, L., l. c. 48.

12. *Podosœmum alpestre*, H.B.K. Nov. Gen. et Sp. Pl. i. 131.

13. *Chusquea Spencei*, sp. n. :—

Ch. *erecta*, 6–12-pedalis et ultra, culmis nodosis glaberrimis *exsudatione ceracea valde glutinosis;* internodiis ad sexpollicaribus, diam. semipollicari; *ramis* erectis 6–10-pollicaribus, densissime fasciculatis, gracillimis, *compressis oligophyllis; vaginis* (inferioribus aphyllis) *apice bilobis lobis acutis; ligula nulla;* foliorum limbo breviter pedunculato, membranaceo, glauco, basi attenuato, lineari-subulato, apicem versus subtilissime spinuloso, 3–4 pollices longo, 3–5 lineas lato, siccitate spiraliter et transverse convoluto; nerviis primariis 5, medio subter prominulo, venulis secundariis numerosis pellucidis, transversis nullis. Reliqua adhuc ignota.

Though at present I can say no more on this plant, I think there is already sufficient evidence of its being a new and distinct species, with well-marked good characters. There are eleven species of Chusquea known to me, either from specimens in my herbarium, or from descriptions and plates,* and I think they may easily be distinguished from each other even in the flowerless state, as I endeavour to show in the following tabular arrangement:—

I.—Ligula nulla.

A. Vaginæ ciliato-pilosæ.—*Ch. abietifolia*, Griseb., West Ind. Fl. 529.

B. Vaginæ glabræ.

a. Lobis vaginarum rotundatis, vegetatio scandens ramis teretibus.—*Ch. scandens*, H.B.K., Nova Gen. et Sp. Pl. i. 201; vii. 154.

* Gen. Munro, in his monograph of Bambuseæ in the 26th volume of the Transactions of the Linn. Soc., describes 30 species of this genus. He reduces two of the species in the above table to varieties, *C. valdivensis*, Desv., to *C. Quila*, and *C. breviglumis*, Phil. to *C. Culeou*.—Ed. Journ. Bot.

b. Lobis vaginarum acutis vegetatio erecta, ramis compressis. —*Ch. Spencei*, sp. n.

II.—Species ligulis præditæ.

A. Ligula ciliato-pilosa.—*Ch. Quila*, Kth. Enum. Pl. ii. suppl. 350.

B. Ligula glabra.

a. Folia inæquilatera.—*Ch. Dombeyana*, Kth. l. c. 351.

b. Folia æquilatera.

α. Ligulæ obtuse bilobæ.—*Ch. Cummingii*, Esenb.; Desv. in Gay, Fl. Chil. vi. 448, tab. 83, fig. 1.

β. Ligulæ integræ.

a.a. Foliis minoribus (13 lin. long., 2½ lin. lat.).—*Ch. andina*, Phil. Linnæa, xxix. 103; Walp. Ann. vii. 1044.

b.b. Foliis majoribus.

α.α. nerviis primariis 7-9.—*Ch. valdiviensis*, Desv.; Gay, Fl. Chil. vii. 446; Walp. Ann. vii. 1044.

β.β. nerviis primariis 5.

* venulis transversis, pellucidis :—*Ch. Culeou*, Desv. Gay, op. cit. vi. 450, tab. 83, fig. 2.

** Venulis transversis nullis.

† vaginæ superne ciliatæ.—*Ch. Gaudichaudii*, Kth. Enum. Pl. ii. Suppl. 352.

†† vaginæ glabræ.—*Ch. breviglumis*, Phil. Linnæa, xxix. 103; Walp. Ann. vii. 1043.

The different species of Chesquea are called *Carrizo* in Venezuela, a name derived from *Carex;* and places where they grow abundantly, which they always do, are called *carrizales*, the ending *al* having in Spanish the same meaning as *etum* (*e.g.*, *dumetum*) in Latin.

I have named this new species after its discoverer, Mr. James M. Spence, a gentleman who during his stay in Carácas has given ample proofs of his great interest in botany, by the large and valuable collections of Orchids he has sent from this country to his father, Mr. Peter Spence, of Erlington House, Whalley Range, Manchester.

14. *Peperomia galioides*, H.B.K., Nova Gen. et Sp. i. 71; Cas. De Cand. in Prod. xvi. l. 463, n. 362, the typical form.

15. *Rhopala ferruginea*, H.B.K. op. cit. ii. 153; Meisn. in De Cand. Prodr. xiv. 426. It is var. *β. minor*.

16. *Phytolacca rivinoides*, Kth. ; De Cand. Prodr. xiii. 2. 459. The fruits are manifestly costate; the inflorescences were not preserved complete, I cannot, therefore, say whether they are nodding or erect.

17. *Gardoquia discolor*, H.B.K. op. cit. ii. 312 ; Benth. in De Cand. Prodr. xii. 238.

18. *Gaylussacia buxifolia*, H.B.K. op. cit. iii. 276, tab. 257. Not in flower.

19. *Vaccinium caracasanum*, H.B.K. op. cit. iii. 266. The specimens are in fruit.

20. *V. Ottonis*, Klotzsch ; Walp. Ann. ii. 1100. Likewise in fruit.

21. *Befaria ledifolia*, H.B. Plant. Equin. ii. 124, tab. 120.

22. *Gaultheria rigida*, H.B.K. op. cit. iii. 286.

23. *Siphocampylus microstoma*, Hook. ; Walp. Rep. ii. 733. Some specimens were found by Mr. Goering in a place sheltered by an overhanging piece of rock, shortly before reaching the top. They are in fruit. Fructus capsula turbinata, calyce 10-nervio vestita, bilocularis, loculis apice dehiscentibus, parte superiore dissepimenti tardius fissa in cornicula dua ad margines spectantia, seminibus numerosis ovatis minimis griseis levissime sub lente reticulatis. This plant was hitherto only known from New Granada.

24. *Gnaphalium americanum*, Mill. ; De Cand. Prodr. vi. 234.

25. *Gn. incanum*, H.B.K. op. cit. iv. 80 ; De Cand. Prodr. vi. 228. The specimens have lost their achænia, but the scales of the involucre are well preserved. I did not notice this species on the Silla de Carácas.

26. *Achyrocline vargasiana*, De Cand. Prodr. vi. 220. Growing also in the lower part of the valley of Carácas.

27. *Libanothamnus neriifolius*, Ernst, Vargasia, 185. (*Bailleria ? neriifolia*, H.B.K. op. cit. iv. 289.

28. *Galium sp.* (Sect. Relbunium ?). Not in flower, so that it is impossible to make out the species. I add the description as far as the material allows : Caulis tetragonus, quadrisulcatus, ad angulos retrorsum pilosus ; foliis quaternis sessilibus late ellipticis margine revolutis apice mucronatis, mucrone sursum flexo, utrinque minutissime punctulatis et sparsim pilosis, margine ciliolatis, subopacis, reticulato-trinerviis, nervis lateralibus ad apicem usque ductis ; gemmis floralibus ut videtur tribus in axillis verticilli foliorum.— Herbula annua, cæspitosa, subcarnulosa, basi aphylla et terræ immersa, vix decimetralis. Folia siccitate nigra, 4–5 mm. longa,

2–3 lata; mucro millimetralis; internodia inferiora 5 mm., superiora 2–3 mm.

29. *Pseudorhachicallis caracasana*, Karst. Flora Columb. ii. 10—*Hedyotis caracasana*, H.B.K. op. cit. iii. 393. *Rachicallis caracasana*, De Cand. Prodr. iv. 434. I adopt Karsten's views, who proposes the new genus *Pseudorhachicallis* for those species of *Rhachicallis* which have winged seeds, and are therefore true Cinchoneæ. Kunth's *Hedyotis caracasana* has certainly a minute seed-wing, and moreover a valvate æstivation, whilst *Rh. rupestris*, D.C., is stated to have wingless seeds and an imbricated corolla (Griseb. West Ind. Flora, 330).

De Candolle and Karsten write *Rachicallis;* I prefer with Grisebach *Rhachicallis;* for De Candolle says: "Nomen ex ῥάχία rupes maritima and κάλλις pulchritudo, quasi ornamentum rupium maritimarum." I do not know whether *Rh. rupestris*, which I never have seen, deserves such eulogy; but our Carácas plant, with its dense, dark green foliage, covered by numberless sweet-scented little blue flowers, is certainly a rock beauty.

30. *Hypericum caracasanum*, H.B.K. op. cit. v. 186.

31. *Weinmannia hirta*, Sw. Flora Ind. Occid. 691; Engler in Linnæa, 36, 618.

32. (?) *Potentilla Ehrenbergiana*, Schlecht. Linnæa, xiii. 261; Walp. Rep. ii. 31. Though not in flower, my specimens agree so perfectly with Schlechtendal's elaborate description, that they belong most probably to this handsome and interesting species. The type was discovered by Ehrenberg near Real del Monte in Mexico, 2781 metres over the level of the sea (Humboldt, Nouv. Espagne, Paris, 1811, i. 199). It said to be very abundant on the top of Naiguatá; I did not see it on the Silla.*

* It is an interesting fact that several peculiar Mexican plants belong likewise to the flora of Carácas, without known intermediate stations. Besides the Potentilla I may cite *Asagræa officinalis*, Lindl.; *Gymnopsis Schiedeana*, De Cand. (*Aldama dentata*, Less.); *Sclerothrix fasciculata*, Presl., &c.

E.

DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS AND ORES FROM VENEZUELA.

BY JOHN PLANT, F.G.S.*

(*Read before the Microscopical Section of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Manchester, January 27, 1873. Professor W. C. Williamson, F.R.S., President of the Section, in the Chair.*)

The collection of minerals acquired by Mr. J. M. Spence during his residence at Carácas, and on several journeys along the coast, came from the provinces of Barcelona, Bolivar, Carabobo, and Coro, with a few obtained from the regions of the River Orinoco and the Lake of Maracaybo. The collection contains gold in quartz of very rich character, argentiferous ores, green and blue carbonates of copper, copper pyrites, galena, iron ores of various kinds, carbonaceous minerals, calcites, silicas, and rock specimens of gneiss, mica, talc schists, kaolin, hornblendic rocks, and serpentine, with a few imperfect fossils and silicified woods.

The gold quartz of the richest kind came from the province of Guayana, where vast regions of auriferous rocks occur, and where also gold is found in small grains, flakes, and nuggets of all sizes from an ounce to many pounds' weight, in a clay from two to eight inches thick, as well as in a red peroxidated iron earth, both probably alluvial drifts. The quartz veins are richly impregnated with gold in crystals and strings, as may be seen in specimens in the collection. Other specimens of the gold rocks come from the Isle of Oruba, and the Loro Estate, Tacasuruma.

The argentiferous ores are galenas and cupiferous, and are not of very great richness; they are from La Guayra, Cumaná, and Coro, where decomposed galenas are worked for silver.

The copper ores include twenty specimens from mines that have been worked with profit, one of which, the Aroa mines in the province of Yaracuy, is the most famous for the superior richness of its

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carbonates. The specimen of cuprite from the mine of Quebrada has some long and beautiful crystals of olivenite with cubes of strontian, and from Aragua are specimens of pyrargyrite or red silver ore; others from Carácas, Coro, and the river Tuy, include malachites and a native sulphate of copper, probably a crystallization from the waters issuing from the mines. The chalcopyrites are neither numerous nor very good; the best comes from the Aroa mines, the small granular pyrites appears to be most abundant in a decomposing gneissoze rock.

The galenas are from mines at Los Teques, Aroa, and Carúpano, several are pseudomorphous crystals in filmy aggregations, interesting specimens for the mineralogist.

The iron ores include specimens of pyrites (mundic) which in Venezuela appears to be as abundant as in most palæozoic regions; ten of the samples are rich, and would be profitable if the cost of mining is not too expensive at Barquisimeto, Carácas, and the Aroa mines.

The hæmatites include specular, micaceous, and red iron ores, all comparable to the best European ores. The limnites comprise bog-iron ore of recent formation and a brown amorphous ore. The siderites include an aggregation of tubular crystals from Carácas, probably a carbonate of protoxide of iron valuable in making steel, and massive clay ironstones from the districts of Curamichate, where coal is also worked. The crystallized and compact magnetites come from the same place. A thin vein of brown siliceous ironstone has its surfaces covered with minute fragments of clear quartz, singular and beautiful under the microscope.

The carbonaceous minerals are coals, graphite, sulphur, asphaltum and petroleum. The coals are from Nueva Barcelona, where Mr. Spence has proved the existence of workable coals, the Island of Toas in the Lake of Maracaybo, and a cannel coal from Coro, with several black shales from these localities. These coals are undoubtedly of excellent quality, and from report can be worked economically; their age is at present unknown from the want of any proper geological survey, and in the absence of fossils of any kind in the shales in this collection; in all probability, however, the Venezuelan coals are of true carboniferous age.

The graphite from Carácas is an impure amorphous earthy kind, in schists of two inches thick, occurring in talcose and micaceous rocks. The sulphurs are massive and of good quality from Carúpano, Cumaná, and Coro. Asphaltum and its varieties are reported

to be found on the coasts in great deposits and in springs: the specimens in the collection are of excellent quality.

The twelve rock specimens of quartz crystals include some of equal purity and size to those obtained from Brazil. The marbles are of inferior quality and quite devoid of colour and beauty; but in the International Exhibition of 1862 some excellent green and red marbles were shown.

The predominating rocks of the mountain ranges in Venezuela are palæozoic, metamorphosed talcose and chloritic slates, with great layers of gneiss; and within this range along the line of faults and in veins, are found an endless variety of minerals, of which the collection contains asbestos, serpentine, talc, hornblende, chlorite, kaolin, felspar, and selenite.

Amongst the comparatively recent rocks are stalactites, salt, marl, alum, gypsum, and many calcareous deposits from the sea shores and fresh water lakes.

The special collection made by Mr. Spence during a visit to the Island of Orchila is interesting to the geologist. It contains sufficient specimens to decide the main geological character of the island to be entirely metamorphic gneiss, overlaid with modern calcareous tufas.

The collection includes a number of crude guanos, phosphates of lime, alumina, and *urao*, a sesquicarbonate of soda—all of commercial value and sources of prosperity if efficiently worked.

F.

CURIOSITIES FROM VENEZUELA—MANCHESTER LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

(*From the Manchester Guardian, December* 17, 1872.)

On Wednesday evening, at the meeting of the Microscopical and Natural History Section of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Mr. James M. Spence exhibited a large and interesting collection of natural history and other objects from Venezuela. Mr. Spence has lately returned from that country, in which he spent eighteen months, during which time he accumulated the extensive collection which is now on view at the Society's room in George Street. An artist accompanied Mr. Spence, and a large collection of drawings and paintings—hung in the top room of the institution—forms a very remarkable and interesting portion of the exhibition.

The natural history collection contains a number of hunter's skins of the larger animals of prey and of the chase; but the great wealth and beauty of the fauna of the South American continent is best illustrated by an extensive collection of birds, embracing examples of nearly all the tribes found in the Venezuelan Republic, and in most instances the greater number of the genera and species arranged by ornithologists in the various tribes. Examples of the birds of prey, from the great harpy vulture to the smallest hawk or owl, occur in specific profusion. The care and judgment that have been shown in making the collection to secure examples of every individual species rather than—as is the usual practice of travellers—large numbers of highly-coloured kinds, is everywhere apparent. Of the beautiful snowy kite, the dingy sharp-shinned hawk, the finely-formed true falcon, and the almost grotesque hawk owl, well preserved skins occur in equal distribution. Leaving the raptorial birds we see shrikes, true thrushes, and babblers represented—amongst others, by the remarkable Pteroptochus, the representative on the great American continent of the still more remarkable lyre-tail of Australia. Orioles, warblers, chatterers, and the next suc-

ceeding tribes of fly-catchers, jays, and fruit crows, prepare us in their sequence for the expected leap we shall have to make in our hurried survey over the typical starlings of the old world, and step, by means of the boat-tails and maize-eaters, to the great family of the finches, which is here largely represented. The climbing birds, such as the toucans—with their large painted beaks—and their congeners the parrots, pass next under review. Five examples of the woodpeckers and creepers succeed these. We confess our disappointment when we come to the gem-feathered humming birds; but Mr. Spence's explanation relative to the absence of these is that the collection has been overhauled by his lady friends. The remaining families of birds we are compelled to pass over, only calling attention to that fine game bird of the crax family, *Pauxi galeata*, of which a splendid example is here shown, together with a nice series of herons, sandpipers, snipes, plovers, which, with a few sea-birds, must close our notice of this which is not the least interesting or valuable portion of the collection.

The economical portion of the collection is of great interest and value, chiefly from its extent and the care which has been exercised in its collection and transportation; and the valuable notes of Dr. Ernst, of Carácas, which accompany it, render it still more valuable. Specimens of the vegetable and mineral productions of Venezuela are found in great number and variety. Among the former are most of the plants yielding dyes or possessing medicinal properties —for example, the mucilaginous bark of the guazuma tree, the chica, from which the Indians prepare a red pigment; the fruit of the taparito, from which some of the spoons exhibited have been made; the bark of the chinchona, or Peruvian bark trees, which Dr. Ernst states does not occur in quantities sufficiently large for exportation; the fruit of the roble or oak, which Mr. Spence says is generally planted as a shade for the coffee trees, the practice in this country being to grow coffee under shade. Tonka beans—a well known article of exportation—are here; and it is a matter of regret that the vessel which contained the famous tecua oil was broken in transport, as otherwise its fame as a preserver from rust in steel goods might have been practically tested. The curious crab oil, on the acids contained in which a paper by Mr. Wonfor appears in the "Proceedings of the Royal Society" (vol. xviii. pp. 303–307), is here exhibited; and also the milk of the cow tree, alluded to by Humboldt in his personal narrative. One of the boxes contains a quantity of the seeds known under the name of Sabadella, which,

according to the notice already referred to, occurs very abundantly, and is exported from the country in considerable quantities. The bark of a species of Vallecia, described by Dr. Ernst in the "Journal of Botany" (vol. viii. p. 375), possesses a peculiar bitter principle, which he recommends for further investigation. This bark in Venezuela is used as a cure for ague. A bottle contains the water obtained from the *Cissus Viatorum*—the *bejuco de aqua*—the stems of which are described as being so succulent as to yield, when cut into, as much as half a pint of liquid, fresh and good to drink, from a stem of not more than two inches in thickness. The flowers of *Brownea grandiceps* are also exhibited as a styptic remedy of great efficacy; and the beaten and softened bast of *Bertholletia excelsa*, which, under the name of *estopa de Rio Negro*, is used for caulking the seams of boats. Among the manufactured articles shown in the collection are some of exquisite fancy and execution made from the fruits of *Suffa cylindrica*. The fibrous network of the interior is the part made use of; and it is difficult to conceive the existence of any material, whether metallic or vegetable, capable of more delicate and elegant manipulation. Panama hats—a well-known article of commerce—are made from the fibres of the leaves of *Carludovica palmata*. Both the leaves and their fibres are to be seen in this collection. The seeds of another of the coffee plantation shade trees, called by the inhabitants *bucare*, are here; also seeds of *Mucuna pruriens*, known by the singular name, when Anglicised, of "eye of the carrion vulture," and stated to be a most efficacious remedy in affections of the respiratory organs. There is also a kind of sarsaparilla, which is exported in considerable quantities, but of which the botanical name is not yet settled.

The above, which is a mere selection of the most striking examples of the vegetable products of the collection, must be taken as illustrative of the medicinal plants. There are in addition examples of gums, resins, and various woods, useful for strength or ornament, well prepared, so as to show their special claims as articles of probable commercial value.

Among the plants exhibited is a small collection of *Characeæ*, named by Dr. Ernst; but the chief interest centres in a small collection of plants gathered by Mr. Spence on the summit of Mount Naiguatá. This mountain, whose altitude is nearly 9500 feet, is the highest in the cordillera of the coast of Venezuela, and was regarded as inaccessible until Mr. Spence and six companions made a successful ascent in April of the

present year, of which an account recently appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*. A species of grass allied to the bamboos, and new to science, was one of the results of this ascent. It has been named *Chusquea Spencei*, after its discoverer; and specimens will be found in the rooms of about six or seven feet in height. This grass is also represented in one of the water-colour drawings by a native artist, giving a sketch of the mountain peak. Other plants collected were too limited to generalise, but it is interesting to see European species, as *Lycopodium complanatum* and our own Lancashire *L. clavatum*. Amongst some of the slender stems of trees exhibited are one or two *lianas*, of which abundant use is made for cordage purposes in the packing of cotton bales throughout that part of the world.

The exhibition includes, in addition to the natural history and economical collections referred to, an assortment of interesting curiosities of native manufacture, recent and ancient. There are goblets, drinking cups, and flasks, more or less finely carved out of cocoa-nuts, some mounted in silver; and a series of delicately-worked cups and bowls of calabash. There are some arrows said to be poisoned, and, at all events, each with its sharp point of wood carefully protected by a little cane sheath. Another bundle of arrows includes two of the flint-headed weapons with which the Indians stun birds which they wish to secure unsoiled. From the State of Trujillo Mr. Spence has brought home three curiously-shaped vessels obtained from Peruvian burial-places.

By the courtesy of the Literary and Philosophical Society the collection will remain open to the public, on presentation of an address card, during this week.

G.

ORCHIDEÆ VENEZUELANÆ:

Or, an Alphabetical List of all the Genera and Species of Orchids collected hitherto in, and described from, the territory of the United States of Venezuela, with the necessary literary references, by Dr. A. ERNST, Professor of Natural History in the University of Carácas, &c. &c. &c.

To JAMES M. SPENCE, Esq., F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., Corr. M. Soc. of Phys. and Nat. Sciences of Carácas, &c., the enthusiastic collector of Venezuelan Orchids, the following pages are dedicated in remembrance of many happy hours spent together, and as a contribution to his interesting work on Venezuela, by his friend,

A. ERNST.

CARÁCAS, *Easter Monday*, 1875.

The following alphabetical list of Venezuelan orchids has been carefully compiled from the most important works on this family and systematic botany in general, as well as from the author's own experience, after many years of floral researches in the neighbourhood of Carácas. It contains 426 species, distributed in 82 genera, and although this number is very considerable, it is evident that the orchid flora of Venezuela must contain a great many species more; only those having been mentioned which are *expressively* recorded from the territory of the republic. But the greatest part of this extensive country has not yet been sufficiently explored, and there can be no doubt that the deep forests of Guayana, the Upper Orinoco, and Casiquiare, will offer an abundant orchidological harvest to the future collector. It will, therefore, be no exaggeration to suppose that the total number of species in the country will be about 600, even if it should be necessary, as most probably it will, to give up many forms described to-day as true species, but which hardly are constant varieties.

This abundance is fully illustrative of the luxurious riches which nature displays in these fertile regions, and shows at the same time

how very difficult it is to compose a flora of any tropical country with tolerable and approximative completeness. Provisional catalogues, or, as it were, rough lists, must prepare the road, and this was one of the principal objects the author desired to obtain by drawing up the present enumeration, which he tried to make as exhaustive as possible, rather than to give only a list of valuable garden species or so-called *fashionable orchids.**

Botanists will not be astonished that the author has adopted the important changes introduced in nomenclature by the great orchidologist, Professor Reichenbach, Director of the Botanic Garden, Hamburg, from whom, if from any one, we may expect *the natural system* of orchids, one of the greatest desiderata of botanical science.

The abbreviations used in the titles of the works of reference need, of course, no explanation to the botanical reader, who soon will notice that some books have not been consulted, as there were no copies within the author's reach. However, it is hoped that the number of species omitted on this account will be but very small.

I. ACINETA.

1. *A. Humboldtii Lindl.* Flore des Serres X. 65, tab. 992. Carácas (A.E.).
2. *A. superba Rchb. fil.* Bonpl. ii. 19 (Anguloa superba, H.B.K., Nova Genera et species plant. i. 343, tab. 93). Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener, A.E.)—"Pico de loro," *i.e.*, parrot's bill.

II. AERANTHES.

3. *A. micrantha Rchb.* Griseb. Flora Brit. West Ind. 625, Bot. Mag. 1772. Venezuela (Grisebach).

III. ANGRÆCUM.

4. *A. spec. aff. organensi. Eaton* in Orchideæ Fendlerianæ Venezuelanæ.† (Trans. Amer. Acad. of Sciences and Arts, new series, vol. viii. 220.) Fendler. 1458.

IV. ANGULOA.

5. *A. Clowesii Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 599. Bot. Mag. 4313. Merida, near Jají, 5500–7000 feet (Linden, Wagener).
6. *A. Clowesii Lindl. b. major Rchb. fil.*, in Schiller's Katalog (1857), No. 69. Same locality as the type.

* Corrections or additions will be thankfully received, and duly acknowledged, by Dr. A. Ernst, Carácas.

† This is nothing but a list of names, not even their authors being indicated.

7. *A. Ruckeri Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 600. Bot. Mag. 5384. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).
8. *A. Ruckeri, b. aurantiaca,* Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 71.
9. *A. Ruckeri,* c. purpurea, Lind., ibid., No. 72.
10. *A. spec.* 2. Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. 75. Cariaco.
11. *A spec.* 3. Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. 76. (White spotted.) Cariaco.

V. BIFRENARIA.

12. *B. Wageneri Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 17. Walp. Ann. vi. 548. Carácas (Wagener).

VI. BLETIA.

13. *Bl. cucullata, var. cuspidata Rchb. fil.* Bonpl. ii. 21. Walp. Ann. vi. 433. Xenia orchid. ii. 66. (Brassavola cuspidata Hook. Bot. Mag. 3722.) Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
14. *Bl. florida R. Br.,* Rchb. in Walp. Ann. vi. 442. Bot. Mag. 1401. Carácas, in savannas, common, all collectors.
15. *Bl. florida var meridana.* Rchb. loc. cit. Merida (Moritz, Wagener).
16. *Bl. Humboldtii Rchb.* (Epidendrum Humboldtii). Walp. Ann. vi. 430; Xen. orch. i. 159, tab. 52, ii. 58. Puerto-Cabello, on trees in the valley of San Juan (Wagener).
17. *Bl. nodosa Rchb.* (Brassavola nodosa Lindl.) Rchb. Xen. orch. ii. 65; Bot. Reg. 1839–40.
    b. genuina, Puerto-Cabello (Wagener); Carácas (A.E.).
    c. grandiflora, Carabobo (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 21).
18. *Bl. retusa Rchb.* (Brassavola Lindl.). Walp. Ann. vi. 435. Xen. orchid. ii. 62; Maraçaybo.
19. *Bl. undulata Rchb.* (Schomburgkia Lindl.). Bonpl. ii. 10; Xen. orchid. ii. 49; Bot. Reg. 1845–53; Walp. Ann. vi. 420. La Guayra, near Cabo Blanco. Very common. "Mulata."
20. *Bl. Wageneri Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 21; Walp. Ann, vi. 443. Guareyma (Wagener); Guarenas (A.E.).

VII. BOLBOPHYLLUM.

21. *B. bracteolatum Lindl.* (Eaton, orchid. Fendl. 1394).
22. *B. meridense Rchb.* Linnæa, xxii. 836 (Didactyle Lindl.)

Walp. Ann. vi. 251. Merida, 4500 feet (Funck and Schlim); Trujillo, near Timotes and Chachopo, 6000–8000 feet.

(*Didactyle*, n. sp. Eaton in orchid. Fendl. 2129, belongs probably to this species.)

VIII. BRACHTIA.

23. *Br. glumacea Rchb.* Linnæa xxii. 854. Walp. Ann. vi. 855. Xen. orchid. i. 76, tab. 29, ii. 1-12. Colony Tovar (Moritz); Merida, 6000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

24. *Br. sulphurea Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 14. Walp. Ann. vi. 856. Xen. orchid. i. 75, tab. 29, i. Merida (Wagener).

IX. CAMARIDIUM.

25. *C. ochroleucum Lindl. Rchb.* in Bonpl. ii. 18; Walp. Ann. vi. 541. Bot. Mag. 3306. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).

X. CATASETUM.

26. *C. callosum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 568 (C. Lansbergii, Myanthus Lansbergii Lindl. Walp. Ann. i. 782). Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas (van Lansberge, Wagener, A.E.).

(There is a curious account of this singular plant in Darwin, *Fertilization of Orchids*, 245.)

27. *C. macrocarpum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 19. Walp. Ann. vi. 564. Carácas (Wagener).

28. *C. macrocarpum Rchb. b. purpureum Rchb.* in Schiller's Kat. 174. Carácas.

29. *C. maculatum Kunth.* in Humb. et Bonpl. Nova Gen. et spec. plant. vii. 157, tab. 630. Rchb. Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas (Wagener).

30. *C. macrocarpum Rich.* Walp. Ann. vi. 564. Rchb. in Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas (Wagener).

31. *C. macrocarpum Rith. b. purpureum Rchb.* in Schiller's Kat. 174. Carácas.

32. *C. Naso Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 571. Carácas (Linden).

CATTLEYA, *vide* EPIDENDRUM.

XI. CHLOIDIA.

33. *Chl. flava Griseb.* West Ind. Flora, 643. Carácas, Carrizal del Catuche, 5000 feet (A.E.).

XII. Chondrorrhyncha.

34. *Ch. rosea Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 663. Deep and damp forests of Merida, near Jají, at the height of 5000 feet (Linden).

XIII. Chysis.

35. *Ch. aurea Lindl.* Walp. vi. 471. Cumanacoa (Henchman); Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener); Mountains of Capaya (Spence, A.E.). Rare.

XIV. Comparettia.

36. *C. coccinea Lindl.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 2435.

37. *C. falcata Pöpp.* Walp. Ann. vi. 688. (C. rosea Lindl. Flore des Serres, ii. May, pl. 6.) Merida (Linden); Carácas, Galipan (A.E.).

XV. Coryanthes.

38. *C. Fieldingi Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 598. Flore des Serres iv. 358–360, pl. 364^{b}, 365^{b}. State of Tachira, where the plant is called *Canastillo*, or little basket. I have a pretty good coloured sketch of this remarkable species, made by a lady in San Cristobal, the capital of Tachira, and have been told that the plant is not uncommon there.

39. *C. macrantha Hook.* Bot. Mag. 1841; Walp. Ann. vi. 598. Carácas (Lockhart).

40. *C. maculata Hook.* Bot. Mag. 3102; Walp. vi. 597. (C. Albertinæ Karsten, *Auswahl neuer und schön blühender Gewächse Venezuelas*, 5, pl. 1.) San Esteban, near Puerto-Cabello, on trees at the foot of the Cumbre of Valencia (Karsten).

XVI. Cranichis.

41. *Cr. mnecosa Sw.* Griseb. West. Ind. Flora, 639. Carácas (A.E.).

XVII. Cyenoches.

42. *C. chlorochilon Klatzsch.* Walp. Ann. vi. 560. Carácas; pretty common. "Pelícano."

43. *C. maculatum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 561. Rchb. in Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas (Wagener).

XVIII. CYMBIDIUM.

44. *C. cordigerum, H.B.K.* Nova Gen. et spec. plant. i. 341. Between S. Bárbara and Puerto-Cabello (Humb. and Bonpl.).
45. *C. diurnum Sw.* Lindl. Genera and Species of orchid. plants, 169. (Limodorum diurnum, Jacq.). On trees near Carácas (Jacquin, Icones pl. rar. iii. 603).
46. *C. glandulosum, H.B.K.* Nov. gen. et sp. pl. i. 340; Lindl. genera et spec. 168. Silla de Carácas (Humb. and Bonpl.).

XIX. CYRTOPERA.

47. *C. longifolia Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 19; Walp. Ann. vi. 668. Merida (Linden); Carácas (Wagener).
48. *C. Woodfordii Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 630. Island of Margarita, near S. Ana del Norte (A.E., April 1873).

XX. CYRTOPODIUM.

49. *C. punctatum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 666. Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.). "Terciopolo."

XXI. DICHÆA.

50. *D. echinocarpa Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 624. Carácas, Galipan, 6000 feet (A.E.).
51. *D. graminoides Lindl.* (D. graminea Griseb.). Griseb. Flora, 625. Bonpl. ii. 15. Carácas (Wagener).
52. *D. muricata Lindl.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1457.

XXII. ELLEANTHUS.

53. *E. arpophyllostachys* (Evelyna) *Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 21; Walp. Ann. vi. 479. Carácas (Wagener).
54. *E. bractescens* (Evelyna Lindl.) *Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 479. *Páramos* of Merida, 8000–10,000 feet (Linden).
55. *E. capitatus Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 475. Slopes of the Sierra Nevada, Merida (Linden); Carácas (A.E.).
56. *E. columnaris Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 483. Agua de Obispo and Sierra Nevada, Merida (Linden).
57. *E. ensatus Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 482. Sierra Nevada, Merida (Linden).
58. *E. flavescens Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 479. Between Humucaros Abajo and Agua de Obispo, in Trujillo, at the height of 7000 feet (Linden).

59. *E. furfuraceus Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 480. Merida (Linden); Carácas (Wagener, A.E.). Rather common.
60. *E. gracilis Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 481 (Evelyna, Rchb. in Linnæa xxii. 843). Merida, 6500 feet (Funck and Schlim).
61. *E. kermesianus Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 478. Bonpl. ii. 21. Carácas (Wagener).
62. *E. linifolius Prsl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 476 (Evelyna granimifolia Pöpp. & Endl.) Bonpl. ii. 21. Carácas, 4000 feet (Wagener).
63. *E. lupulinus Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 483. *Páramos* of the Sierra Nevada, 10,000 feet (Linden).
64. *E. Wageneri Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 21: Walp. Ann. vi. 474. Carácas (Wagener).

XXIII. EPIDENDRUM.

65. *E. agathosmicum Rchb.* Linnæa xxii. 841; Walp. Ann. vi. 413. Carácas, near the Venta, on the old road to La Guayra (Moritz); Trujillo (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 20).
66. *E. albovirescens Hors. Link.* Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. 415. Carácas.
67. *E. alpicolum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 110; Walp. Ann. vi. 366. Merida (Moritz, Wagener).
68. *E. ansiferum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 111; Walp. Ann. vi. 394. Carácas, Chacao (E. Otto).
69. *E. atropurpureum Willd.* (E. macrochilum Hook.) Ann. vi. 344. Flore des Serres iv. 372. Carácas, rather common. There is a variety with a pure white labellum and some red streaks. (Wagener, Spence, A.E.).
70. *E. attenuatum. Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 359. Trujillo; Agua de Obispo, 9000 feet (Funck and Schlim).
71. *E. bicornutum Hook.* Walp. Ann. vi. 345. Bonpl. ii. 20; Carabobo (Wagener).
72. *E. bilamellatum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 345. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
73. *E. Blepharistes Bark.* Walp. Ann. vi. 379. La Guayra (Linden); Venezuela (Funck and Schlim).
74. *E. brachychilum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 352. Sierra Nevada, Merida (Linden); Carácas (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 20).

75. *E. brachycladium Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 379. (E. crassipes Lindl.). Carácas (Purdie ?).*
76. *E. cardioglossum Rchb.* Linnæa xxii. 841; Walp. Ann. vi. 407. Silla de Carácas (Moritz).
77. *E. carneum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 364. Merida, Jají (Linden).
78. *E. ceratistes Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 329; Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas (Wagener).
79. *E. chacaoense Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 20; Walp. Ann. vi. 358. Carácas, Chacao (Wagener).
80. *E. ciliare L.* Walp. Ann. vi. 347. Carácas. Very common. "Mariposita blanco," *i.e.*, "a little white butterfly."
81. *E. clavatum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 349. Cumaná (Henchman).
82. *E. cochleatum L.* Walp. Ann. vi. 359; Griseb. Flora, 616. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.). "Araña," *i.e.*, spider.
83. *E. cochlidium Lindl.* Walp. Ann vi. 393. Merida in sub-alpine rocky places (Moritz). "Flor de San José," Merida. Carácas (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 20).
84. *E. coriophorum Rchb.* Walp. vi. 347; Bonpl. ii. 20, no precise locality, but collected by Wagener in Venezuela.
85. *E. cornutum Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
86. *E. cuspidatum Lodd.* Eaton, orchid. Fendl. 1384. This species is generally considered as a form of *E. ciliare.*
87. *E. Dendrobii Rchb.* Linnæa, xxii. 841. Merida, in the alpine region (Moritz).
88. *E. difforme Jacq.* (E. umbellatum Sw.). Walp. Ann. vi. 402; Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener).
89. *E. elongatum Jacq.* Walp. Ann. vi. 395. Carácas. "Vara de San José." Very common.
90. *E. fallax Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 353, var. b. flavescens. Merida, Sierra Nevada (Linden); Barbacoas (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 20).
91. *E. fimbriatum H.B.K.* Nov. gen. et sp. pl. i. 351, Walp.

* Purdie was never in Carácas; the species is, therefore, mentioned here with some doubts. Lindley, and others, comprehend under the name *Caracas* generally the whole Caribbean coast of South America to Santa Marta, an entirely false denomination which ought not to be continued in recent books.

vi. 406. *Pátamo* del Zumbador, 11,000 feet (Linden); Carácas (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 28).

92. *E. floribundum H.B.K.* Nov. gen. et sp. pl. i. 353, tab. 86; Walp. Ann. vi. 413. The variety *b. lilacinum* Rchb. (Linn. xxii. 840) was collected in Venezuela (locality not stated) by Moritz, and Funck and Schlim.

93. *E. fragrans Sw.* Bot. Mag. 152; Walp. Ann. vi. 357; Bonpl. ii. 20. Barcelona (Wagener); Carácas (A.E.).

94. *E. frigidum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 411. Sierra Nevada of Merida, on damp rocks a short distance from eternal snow (Linden, Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 20).

95. *E. fulgens Brogn.* (E. cinnabarinum Salzm. Bot. Reg. 1842, t. 25). Venezuela (Grisebach Flora, 617).

96. *E. grammatoglossum Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 857; Walp. Ann. vi. 350. S. Ana in Trujillo, at the height of 5000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

97. *E. heterodoxum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 20; Walp. Ann. vi. 326. Carácas (Wagener).

98. *E. jajense Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 20; Walp. Ann. vi. 352. Jají, Merida (Wagener).

99. *E. Kermesianus Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 349. Carácas (?).

100. *E. Klotzschianum Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 838, Merida, on cold places in the deep forests of the Sierra Nevada (Moritz).

101. *E. labiatum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 313 (Cattleya labiata).
Var. *Mossiæ.* "Flor de Mayo." Carácas, common to all collectors. This is a very variable plant, the most frequent forms are the following:—
a. Pallida, La Guayra (Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. 211).
b. Speciosa, Carácas (ibid. ibid. 212).
c. Reineckeana, ibid. (Rchb. in Bonpl. iv. 327).
Var. *Urselli*, Rchb. in Schiller's Katalog, 214.
Var. *Wageneri*, Rchb. in Xen. i. 28, 29, tab. 13 (Cattleya); Walp. Ann. vi. 314; Bonpl. iii. 21. Very rare near Carácas.

102. *E. lacustre Rchb.* (E. leucochilum Lindl.; non. Klotzsch). Walp. Ann. vi. 369. Laguneta, near Mérida, 8000 feet (Linden).

103. *E. leucochilum Klotzsch* (E. flavidum Lindl.). Walp. Ann. vi. 369. Carácas (Otto); Barbacoas (Wagener). "Paloma blanca," *i.e.*, white dove.

104. *E. Lindeni Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 393. Merida, Carácas (Linden).
105. *E. Matutinum Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 840. Merida (Moritz).
106. *E. Moritzii Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 837. Walp. vi. 350. Merida (Moritz, Wagener, Funck and Schlim).
107. *E. naucratis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 20; Walp. vi. 412. Collected by Wagener, but precise locality not mentioned.
108. *E. nocturnum L.* Walp. Ann. iv. 404. Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
109. *E. nutans Sw.* Walp. Ann. vi. 376; Hook. Exot. Flora 50. Carácas (A.E.). Also collected by Fendler 1770.
110. *E. orchioides.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1452.
111. *E. Ottonis Rchb.* Griseb. Flora 613. Venezuela.
112. *E. paniculatum Ruiz and Pavon.* Walp. Ann. vi. 376. The var. *C. cuspidatum* was collected by Linden, Funck and Schlim, near Carácas.
113. *E. Peperomia Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 20; Walp. Ann. vi. 368. Carácas (Wagener).
114. *E. polyanthum Lindl.* (E. Landsbergii Regel). Walp. Ann. vi. 380. Carácas (Lansberge).
115. *E. purum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 412. Carácas (Linden, Wagener, A.E.).
116. *E. pygmæum Hook.* Griseb. Flora, 615; Bot. Mag. 3233. Carácas (A.E.).
117. *E. ramosum Jacq.* Walp. Ann. vi. 399. Griseb. Flora, 618. Carácas (A.E.).
118. *E. raphidophorum Lind.* Walp. Ann. vi. 371. Silla de Carácas (Funck and Schlim); Páramo de los Conejos, Linden (not *Conisos*, as is erroneously printed in the place quoted).
119. *E. recurvatum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 410. Bailadores (Linden).
120. *E. refractum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 354. Sierra Nevada of Merida 10,000 – 12,000 feet (Linden, Wagener).
121. *E. rigidum Jacq.* Walp. Ann. vi. 400; Hook. Icones, 314; Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
122. *E. sceptrum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 353. Jají, 6500 feet (Linden).
123. *E. Schomburgkii Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 389; Griseb.

Flora, 617. Island of Margarita, near S. Ana del Norte (A.E., April 1873).

124. *E. Schlimii Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 361; Linn. xxii. 838. Merida, 6500 feet (Funck and Schlim).

125. *E. scutella Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 367. Merida (Wagener).

126. *E. Stamfordianum Batem.* Walp. Ann. vi. 415; Xen. orchid. ii. 36; Bot. Mag. 4759; Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener).

127. *E. stellatum Lind.* Walp. Ann. vi. 339. Carácas (Purdie ?).

128. *E. sthenopotalum Hook.* Walp. Ann. vi. 402. Near San Cristobal, State of Tachira, in forests at the height of 3000 feet (Linden); Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 20).

129. *E. strobiliferum Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 618. Island of Margarita, on trees in the ravine of the rivulet Tamoco, near Santa Ana del Norte (A.E.).

130. *E. subpurum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 21; Walp. Ann. vi. 413. Carácas (Wagener).

131. *E. tenax Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 20; Walp. Ann. vi. 367. Venezuela (Wagener).

132. *E. tesselatum Batem* (E. lividum Lindl.). Walp. Ann. vi. 340, 341. La Guayra, Carácas (Wagener, Bonpl. ii. 20).

133. *E. tigrinum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 354. Jají, 5000–9000 feet (Linden); Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener).

134. *E. tipuloideum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 350. Carabobo, Campanario, 1000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

135. *E. tovarense Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 838; Walp. Ann. vi. 370. Colony Tovar (Moritz); Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener).

136. *E. variegatum Hook.* Walp. Ann. vi. 355; Bonpl. ii. 20. Carácas (Wagener).

137. *E. violaceum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 318 (Cymbidium, H.B.K.; Cattleya superba Schomb.); Flore des Serres, ix. 926. San Fernando de Atabapo (Humboldt).

138. *E. virens Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 337 (E. Wageneri Kltzsch.); Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas, 3500 feet (Wagener, A.E.).

139. *E. xantholeucum Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 839; Walp. Ann.

vi. 373. Merida, Chachopo, near Mucuchíes, 9000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

XXIV. ERIOPSIS.

140. *Er. spec.* Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 532. Venezuela.

XXV. GALEANDRA.

141. *G. Beyrichii Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 854. Walp. Ann. iii. 552. Bonpl. ii. 19. Carácas (Wagener).

XXVI. GONGORA.

142. *G. odoratissima Lemaire*, in Flore des Serres, iii. 229; Walp. Ann. i. 783; vi. 596. La Guayra (Wagener, A.E.).

143. *G. odoratissima, b. fulgida*, Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 554. Venezuela.

144. *G. odoratissima, c. zenischii*, Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 555. Venezuela.

145. *G. quinquenervis Ruiz & Pavon.* Walp. Ann. vi. 595. Puerto-Cabello. Carácas (A.E.).

146. *G. retrorsa Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 19; Walp. Ann. vi. 593; Xen. orchid. i. 54, tab. 20 iii. Merida (Wagener).

XXVII. GOODYERA.

147. *G. guayanensis Lindl.* Genera and Species, 494. Carácas, Catuche (A.E.).

XXVIII. GOVENIA.

148. *G. tingens Endl. & Pöpp.* Linn. xxvi. 144; Walp. Ann. vi. 559. Silla de Carácas, 4000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).

149. *G. utriculata Lindl.* Bot. Mag. 4151; Griseb. Flora, 628. Venezuela.

XXIX. HABENARIA.

150. *H. angustafolia, H.B.K.* Nova gen. et sp. pl. i. 330. Ciudad-Bolivar, in swampy places (Humb.).

151. *H. brachyceras.* Eaton Orchid. Fendl. 1437.

152. *H. entomantha.* ibid. ibid. 1438.

153. *H. heptadactyla Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 812. Caripe (Moritz); Orinoco (Humb.).

154. *H. Lindenii.* Eaton orch. Fendl. 1434.

155. *H. macroceratitis W.* Griseb. Flora, 643. Carácas, on the grassy slopes of mountains (A.E.).

156. *H. maculosa Lindl.* (H. speciosa Endl. & Pöpp.) Bonpl. ii. 10; Griseb. Flora, 643. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
157. *H. obtusa Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 10. Carácas (Wagener).
158. *H. spathacea A. Rich.* Bonpl. ii. 10. Carácas (Wagener).
159. *H. triptera Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 814; Bonpl. ii. 14. Carácas, in savannas at the foot of the Silla (Otto, Moritz, Wagener, A.E.).

XXX. HEXISEA.

160. *H. reflexa Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 623. Carácas, in the mountains, hanging from the branches of trees (A.E.).

XXXI. HOULLETIA.

161. *H. Lansbergii Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 617; Bonpl. ii. 19. Cumaná (Wagener).

XXXII. IONOPSIS.

162. *I. pulchella H.B.K.* Nova. gen. et sp. pl. i. 348, tab. 83; Walp. Ann. vi. 685. Bonpl. ii. 14. Carabobo, 4000 feet (Wagener); Chirgua (Mariano Palacios).
163. I. *tenera Lindl.* Reichenb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 585. Carácas. Flore des Serres, vii. 294.
164. I. *utricularioides Lindll.* Walp. Ann. vi. 685. Guarenas (Funck and Schlim); Petare (Enr. Manrique).

XXXIII. ISOCHILUS.

165. *I. linearis R. Br.* Cumanacoa (Humb.). Bonpl. ii. 22. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.). "Pluma del Diablo," or Devil's pen.

XXXIV. KEFERSTEINIA.

166. *K. stapelioides Rchb.* Xen. orchid. i. 69, tab. 25; iii. 12–14 (Zygopetalum Moritzii. Rchb. Walp. Ann. vi. 658). Carácas (A.E.); Merida (Moritz).

XXXV. KŒLLENSTEINIA.

167. *K. Kellneriana Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 17; Walp. Ann. vi. 552. Xen. orchid. i. 64–66, tab. 24; iii. 10–18. Trujillo 7000 feet (Wagener).

XXXVI. LEPANTHES.

168. *L. Aquila Borussiæ Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 22; Walp. Ann. vi. 197. Xen. orchid. i. 157, tab. 50; vi. 17–21. Carácas (Wagener).

169. *L. cynoptera Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 819; Xen. orchid. i. 153, tab. 49; ii. 5–8. Merida, 6000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

170. *L. ruscifolia Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 819; Xen. orchid. i. 154, tab. 49; iv. 13–15. Merida, Jají (Funck and Schlim).

XXXVII. LIPARIS.

171. *L. bituberculata Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 22. Carácas (Wagener).

172. *L. elliptica Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 833 (Sturmia); Walp. Ann. vi. 218. Carácas (Wagener).

173. *L. Galeottiana.* Eaton orch. Fendl. 1410.

XXXVIII. LOCKHARTIA.

174. *L. acuta Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 819. Griseb. Flora, 624 Venezuela.

175. *L. elegans Hook.* Walp. Ann. vi. 820. Griseb. Flora, 624; Venezuela. Carácas (Lansberg).

176. *L. obtusifolia Regel.* Annales des Sciences Naturelles, iv. série, Bot. vol. vi. 378. Carácas (Lansberg).

177. *L. pallida Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 819; Xen orchid. i. 102, tab. 39; i. 1–4. Carabobo (Wagener).

178. *L. parthenocomos Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 819. Xen. orchid. i., tab. 40; ii. 3–7. Carácas (Wagener, Lansberg, A.E.).

XXXIX. LYCASTE.

179 *L. fulvescens Hook.* Walp. Ann. vi. 605. Bot. Mag. 4193. Reichenb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 643. Merida.

180. *L. gigantea Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 604; Bot. Mag. 5616; Bonpl. ii. 15. Merida at the height of 5000–6000 feet (Linden); Carácas (Wagener).

181. *L. macrobulbon Rchb.* Walp. Ann. i. 782. Schiller's Kat. No. 646. Merida.

182. *L. macrophylla Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 602. Bonpl. ii. 15. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).

XL. MACROSTYLIS.

183. *M. galipanensis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 11. Carácas, on the Galipan (Wagener).

XLI. MASDEVALLIA.

184. *M. affinis Lindl.* Rchb. in Bonpl. ii. 23; iii. 69; Walp. Ann. vi. 191. Carácas, 5000–6000 feet (Wagener).

185. *M. candida Kl. and Karst.* Bonpl. ii. 23. Carácas (Wagener).
186. *M. caudata Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 23; Walp. Ann. vi. 189. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).
187. *M. ensata Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 818. Merida (Funck and Schlim).
188. *M. maculata Kl. and Karst.* Walp. Ann. i. 774; vi. 190; Bonpl. ii. 23. Carácas, on the Silla (Wagener); Fendler, 1362.
189. *M. aff. meleagri.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1363.
190. *M. pumila Rchb.* Xen. i. 200, tab. 75; iii. iv. 5–7 Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).
191. *M. Schlimii Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 283; Walp. Ann. vi. 194. Merida, 5000–6000 feet (Wagener, Funck and Schlim).
192. *M. Tovarensis Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 818; Bot. Mag. 5505. Fendler, 1361. Colony Tovar (Moritz).
193. *M. triangularis Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 23. Carácas (Wagener).
194. *M. tricolor Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 818. Merida (Funck and Schlim).
195. *M. verrucosa Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 819; Walp. Ann. vi. 195 (Pleurothallis verrucosa Rchb. Bonpl. ii. 24). Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).
196. *M. Wageneriana Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 188; Bonpl. ii. 23; Xen. orchid. i. 199, tab. 75; ii. 2–4; Bot. Mag. 4921. Carabobo, 6000 feet (Wagener).

XLII. MAXILLARIA.

197. *M. albata Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 514; Bonpl. ii. 15. Jají 8000 feet (Linden). Merida, 7000 feet (Wagener).
198. *M. anatomorum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 513; Bonpl. ii. 15; Xen. orchid. i. 188, tab. 67; iii. 6–9. Carácas (Wagener).
199. *M. brevifolia Rchb.* (Camaridium Lindl.). Walp. Ann. vi. 540. Merida (Moritz).
200. *M. callichroma Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 16; Walp. Ann. vi. 518. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).
201. *M. corrugata Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 508. Perijá (Linden).
202. *M. corrugata, b. Wageneri.* Rchb. Walp. Ann. vi. 508. Carácas (Wagener).

203. *M. crassifolia Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 16; Walp. Ann. vi. 529. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).

204. *M. discolor Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 529 (Dicrypta Lodd.); Eaton orchid. Fendl. 2127.

205. *M. foveata Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 510; Bonpl. ii. 17. Carácas (Wagener).

206. *M. grandiflora Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 516. Jají, 5000–7000 feet (Linden).

207. *M. Guareimensis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 16; Walp. Ann. vi. 534. Carácas (Wagener).

208. *M. hyacinthina Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 855. Merida (Moritz).

209. *M. lancifolia Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 539. (Camaridium lancifolium Rchb. in Linn. xxii. 857.) Merida, 6500 feet (Funck and Schlim).

210. *M. leptosepala Hook.* var. b. *subintegerrima Regel.* Ann. des Scienc. Nat. 4. série, Bot. vi. 374. Carácas (Lansberg).

211. *M. longissima Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 516. Forests of Merida, 6000 feet (Linden).

212. *M. lorifolia Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 92; Walp. Ann. vi. 524. La Guayra.

213. *M. luteo-alba Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 516; Bonpl. ii. 15. Merida, 8000 feet (Wagener).

214. *M. luteo-rubra Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 539, 540. (Camaridium luteo-rubrum Lindl.) Merida, 5500 feet (Linden).

215. *M. melina Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 527 Merida, 5600 feet (Linden); Bonpl. ii. 16. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).

216. *M. meridensis Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 533. Merida, 6000 feet (Linden).

217. *M. nigrescens Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 518; Bonpl. ii. 15. Merida, 5000–8000 feet (Linden).

218. *M. notylioglossa Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 16; Walp. Ann. vi. 527; Xen. orchid. i. 24, tab. 10, iii. 3, 4. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

219. *M. pallidiflora Hook.* Bot. Mag. 2806. Walp. Ann. vi. 510; Bonpl. ii. 17. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener). Synonym with M. stenobulbon Klotzsch.

220. *M. pentura Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 519; Bonpl. ii. 15. Merida, 6000 feet (Linden).
221. *M. ponerantha Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 17; Walp. Ann. vi. 536. Carácas (Warscewicz?).
222. *M. praetexta Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 16; Walp. Ann. vi. 536. Xen. orchid. i. 23, tab. 10, i. 1, 2. Carabobo, 5000 feet (Wagener.)
223. *M. proboscidea Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 16. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener). Very rare.
224. *M. purpurata Rchb.* (Camaridium Lindl.) Walp. Ann. vi. 538. Merida, 5000 feet (Linden).
225. *M. rebellis Rchb.* in Schiller's Kat. No. 688. Venezuela.
226. *M. rufescens Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 525; Bonpl. ii. 16. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).
227. *M. scabrilinguis Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 508. Rchb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 961. Carácas.
228. *M. setigera Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 517. La Guayra.
229. *M. spilotantha Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 17; Walp. Ann. vi. 534. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).
230. *M. squalens Hook.* Rchb. in Bonpl. ii. 17. Carácas, 4500 (Wagener).
231. *M. stenophylla Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 17; Walp. Ann. vi. 531. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).
232. *M. Truxillensis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 17; Walp. Ann. vi. 509. Trujillo (Wagener).
233. *M. virguncula Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 16; Walp. Ann. vi. 522. Xen. orchid. i. 24, tab. 10, 2. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

XLIII. Microstylis.

234. *M. disepala Rchb.* Linn. xxvi. 142; Walp. vi. 206. Curucutí (Wagener.)
235. *M. ventricosa Endl. & Pöpp.* Reichenb. in. Bonpl. ii. 22; Walp. Ann. vi. 206. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
236. *M. umbellulata Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 612. Carácas, forest of river Catuche (A.E.).

XLIV. Mormodes.

237. *M. buccinator Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 578 (M. vitellina, Wageneriana, brachystachya, marmorea, and leurochila Kltzsch). Bonpl. ii. 381. Merida, San Cristobal (Schlim); Carácas (Wagener, A.E.). "Capuchino."

XLV. NOTYLIA.

238. *N. punctata Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 672. Carácas (A.E.).

239. *N. sagittifera Hook.* Walp. Ann. vi. 673. Carácas (Wagener).

XLVI. ODONTOGLOSSUM.

240. *O. auropurpureum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 839. Venezuela (Funck and Schlim).

241. *O. constrictum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 825; Bonpl. ii. 12; Bot. Mag. 5736. La Guayra, Carácas (Linden, Wagener, A.E.).

242. *O. costatum Lindl.* Walp. vi. 835. Agua de Obispo, 8000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

243. *O. distans Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 848; Walp. Ann. vi. 837. Merida, Lagunilla, 6000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

244. *O. megalophium Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 838. Merida, 7000 feet (Linden).

245. *O. nævium Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 828. Flore des Serres, v. 594. Trujillo, near S. Lázaro and La Peña, 6000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

246. *O. odoratum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 826. Merida, Sierra Nevada, 5000–7000 feet (Linden, Wagener).

247. *O. ramosissimum Lindl.* var. b. heterosepalum Rchb. Linn. xxii. 850. Walp. Ann. vi. 840. Merida, 7000–10,000 feet (Funck and Schlim). A most splendid plant.

248. *O. Schillerianum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 12; Walp. Ann. vi. 827. Merida (Wagener).

249. *O. Wageneri Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 12; Walp. Ann. vi. 827. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

XLVII. ONCIDIUM.

250. *O. abortivum Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 847; Walp. Ann. iii. 558; vi. 810. Carácas, Colony Tovar (Moritz, Wagener). Very rare.

251. *O. æmulum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 705. Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1376.

252. *O. ampliatum Liddl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 744. Bonpl. ii. 13. Barquisimeto and Carácas (Wagener).

253. *O. auriferum Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 847; Walp. Ann. vi. 806. Merida, 7000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

254. *O. Baueri Hook.* Griseb. Flora, 632. Venezuela.

255. *O. Boothianum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 779; Bonpl. ii. 14; Xen. orchid. i. 190, tab. 68, iii. 6–9. Cumbre de Valencia (Funck and Schlim, Wagener).

256. *O. caminiophorum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 792. Bonpl. ii. 13. Carabobo, 6000 feet (Wagener).

257. *O. carthaginense Sw.* Walp. Ann. vi. 781.
var. *c. sanguineum* Lindl. La Guayra, Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
var. *d. Klotzschii.* Same locality.

258. *O. caudatum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 766 (Brassia caudata Lindl., Bot. Mag. 3451). Griseb. Flora, 633. Venezuela.

259. *O. Cebolleta Sw.* Walp. Ann. vi. 720. Carácas; common.

260. *O. cimiciferum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 712. Trujillo, Agua de Obispo; Merida, 8000 feet (Funck and Schlim, Wagener)..

261. *O. citrinum Lindl.* Var. *b. rotundatum,* Regel. Ann. des Scienc. nat. 4 série, Bot. vol. vi. 377. Carácas (van Lansberg).

262. *O. cucullatum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 733, var. *b. sanguinolentum* (Leochilus sanguinolentus, Lindl.). La Guayra.

263. *O. examinans Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 713. Carácas (?).

264. *O. falcipetalum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 704. Merida, 5000 feet (Linden); Carácas (Wagener).

265. *O. glumaceum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 769. (Brassia glumacea Lindl). Merida, 5000 feet (Linden).

266. *O. herbaceum Rchb.* (Leochilus herbaceus Lindl.). Walp. Ann. vi. 772. La Guayra, imp. by Wailes of Newcastle.

267. *O. Keilianum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 770; Bonpl. ii. 14 (Brassia Keiliana, Xen. orchid. i. 126, 127, tab. 45). Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).

268. *O. lentiginosum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 13; Walp. Ann. vi. 790; Xen. orchid. i. 192; tab. 69, ii. 6, 7. Carácas (Wagener).

269. *O. leucochilum Batem.* Var. *b. speciosum,* Regel, Gartenflora, 1873, 193, tab. 763.

270. *O. Limminghii E. Morren.* Walp. Ann. vi. 816. Carácas.

271. *O. lingniforme Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 755. (O. umbrosum Rchb. in Bonpl. ii. 12). Merida, 5000 feet (Linden, Moritz). Carácas (Wagener).
272. *O. luridum Lindl.* (O guttatum Rchb.). Bonpl. ii. 13; Walp. Ann. vi. 782. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.). "Ganso," *i.e.*, goose.
273. *O. maizæfolium Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 803. Merida, 7000 feet (Linden).
274. *O. meirax Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 12; Walp. Ann. vi. 749; Xen. orchid. i. 42, tab. 18, iii. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).
275. *O. miserrimum Rchb.* Bonpl. iii. 66; Walp. Ann. vi. 756. Venezuela (?).
276. *O. nudum Batem.* Walp. Ann. vi. 719; Bonpl. ii. 14. Carácas (Funck and Schlim, Otto, Wagener).
277. *O. Papilio Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 13; Walp. Ann. vi. 815; Flore des Serres, ix. 165. Carácas, on steep rocks; all collectors. "Mariposa," *i.e.*, butterfly.
278. *O. Pardalis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 13; Xen. orchid. i. 180, tab. 63, iii. 3–7. La Guayra, Carácas (Wagener).
279. *O. picturatum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 13; Walp. Ann. vi. 788. Carácas (Wagener).
280. *O. pusillum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 714. (O. iridifolium H.B.K.). Carácas (A.E.).
281. *O. refractum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 12; Walp. Ann. vi. 708. Merida, 9000 feet (Linden).
282. *O. Reichenbachii Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 802. Merida, Lagunilla, 7000 feet (Funck and Schlim).
283. *O. scansor Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 844. (O. convolvulaceum, Lindl. and Paxt). Walp. Ann. iii. 556; vi. 742. Merida, 6000 feet (Funck and Schlim).
284. *O. Schlimii Linden.* Walp. Ann. vi. 780. Merida, 7000 feet (Schlim).
285. *O. suaveolens Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 765, var. c. pumila. Carácas (Linden).
286. *O. superbiens Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 705. Venezuela (Funck and Schlim).
287. *O. tetrapetalum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 717. Cumaná (Funck).
288. *O. volvox Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 13; Walp. Ann. vi. 794.

Xen. orchid. i. 239, tab. 99, i. 1-5. Carácas (Wagener). Common.

289. *O. Wageneri Rchb.* (Brassia wageneri). Walp. Ann. vi. 767. Carácas 5000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).

290. *O. zebrinum Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 709, Bonpl. ii. 12. Carácas (Moritz, Wagener, A.E.).

XLVIII. OPHRYS.

291. *O. ciliata H.B.K.* Nova gen. et sp. plant, i. 334, tab. 74. El Pejual, on the Silla de Carácas (Humboldt).

XLIX. ORNITHIDIUM.

292. *O. Jenischianum Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 18; Xen. orchid. i. 210, tab. 84, i. 1-4; Walp. Ann. vi. 490. Trujillo, 7000 feet (Wagener).

293. *O. miniatum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 491; Bonpl. ii. 18. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).

294. *O. ruberrimum Rchb.* (Scaphyglottis ruberrima Lindl.). Walp. Ann. vi. 489. Merida, 5000 feet (Linden).

295. *O. sanguinolentum Lindl.* Walp. vi. 489, Bonpl. ii. 18. Merida, 6000 feet (Moritz, Wagener).

296. *O. serrulatum Lindl.* (?) var. b. acuminatum Rchb. in Linn. xxii. 856. Merida (Moritz, Funck and Schlim).

297. *O. Sophronitis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 18; Walp. Ann. vi. 486, Xen. orchid. i. 211, tab. 84, iii. 7, 8. Colony Tovar (Moritz); Guareima (Wagener); Galipan (Roezl, A.E.).

298. *O. vestitum Rchb.* (Camaridium vestitum Lindl.). Walp. Ann. vi. 491. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).

L. ORNITHOCEPHALUS.

299. *O. Cruegeri Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 635. On trees near Cua, Tuy (A.E.).

300. *O. gladiatus Hook.* Griseb. Flora, 635. Same locality, also near Baruta (A.E.).

LI. PACHYPHYLLUM.

301. *P. crystallinum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 823; Bonpl. ii. 15. Páramo de la Culata, Merida, 10,000 feet (Linden); Carácas, 4000 feet (Wagener).

LII. PAPHINIA.

302. *P. cristata Lind.* Walp. Ann. vi. 615; Flore des Serres, iv. 338. Guayana.

LIII. PELEXIA.

303. *P. roseo-alba Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 11. Carácas (Wagener, Moritz, Vermehren, A.E.).

LIV. PERISTERIA.

304. *P. elata Hook.* Walp. Ann. vi. 607; Bonpl. ii. 19. Trujillo, 6000 feet (Wagener). "Flor de Espíritu Santo," *i.e.*, Holy Ghost flower.

LV. PHYSURUS.

305. *Ph. Plantagineus Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 643. Carácas (A.E.). *P. Brachyrrhynchus, P. Hyphœmaticus.* See page 220.

LVI. PLEUROTHALLIS.

306. *P. cabellensis Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 832; Walp. Ann. iii. 520. Puerto-Cabello, 4500 feet (Funck and Schlim).

307. *P. cardiostola Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 26; Walp. Ann. vi. 180; Xen. orchid. i. 72; tab. 28, ii. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

308. *P. cardium Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 26; Walp. Ann. vi. 179. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).

309. *P. ceratothallis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 25; Walp. Ann. vi. 183. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

310. *P. chamæstelis Rchb.* Bonpl. xxii. 925; Walp. Ann. iii. 417. Merida, 6500 feet (Funck and Schlim).

311. *P. chamensis Lindl.* Rchb. in Bonpl. iii. 172; Walp. Ann. vi. 177. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

312. *P. cordifolia Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 26; Walp. Ann. vi. 179. Carácas, 4000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).

313. *P. dendrophila Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 827; Walp. Ann. iii. 518. Merida, 6000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

314. *P. elegans Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 25; Walp. Ann. vi. 179. (Wagener.)

315. *P. floripecten Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 25; Walp. Ann. vi. 175. Jají (Wagener).

316. *P. gratiosa Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 25; Walp. Ann. vi. 184; Xen. orchid. i. 71.; tab. 28, i. 1, 2. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).

317. *P. hemirhoda Lindl* (Pl. nuda Rchb.). Walp. Ann. vi. 187; Schiller's Kat. No. 921. Carácas.

318. *P. Hystrix Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 26; Walp. Ann. vi. 182 Carácas (Wagener).

319. *P. incompta Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 24; Walp. Ann. vi. 570; Xen. orchid. ii. 113; tab. 137, i. 2–5. Carácas (Wagener).
320. *P. ionantha Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 830; Walp. iii. 519. Carabobo, 2500 feet (Funck and Schlim, Moritz).
321. *P. Kefersteiniana Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 24; Walp. Ann. vi. 170. Carácas, 4000–5000 feet (Wagener). Very rare.
322. *P. lanceolata.* Eaton Orchid. Fendl. 1476.
323. *P. lancipetala* (Dubois-Raymondia). Karst. Flora Colomb. i. 95, 96; tab. 47. Carácas.
324. *P. Landsbergii Regel.* Ann. des. Scienc. nat. 4 série Bot. vi. 373. Carácas (van Landsberg).
325. *P. lepanthiformis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 25. Carácas (Wagener).
326. *P. Lindeni Lindl.* Ann. Nat. History, xii. 397; Walp. Ann. xi. 177; Bonpl. ii. 25. Colony Tovar, 5000 feet (Wagener).
327. *P. lorantophylla Rchb.* Walp. vi. 169. (Rhynchopera punctata Karst. Auswahl Gerv. Venez. vii.) Venezuela, Carácas, 5000–7000 feet (Karsten, A.E.).
328. *P. meridana Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 826; Walp. Ann. iii. 518. Merida (Moritz).
329. *P. minax Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 24; Walp. Ann. vi. 172. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).
330. *P. Moritzii Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 823; Walp. Ann. iii. 517. Colony Tovar, 5000 feet (Moritz).
331. *P. octomeriæformis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 25; Walp. Ann. vi. 176. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).
332. *P. palpigera* (Dubois-Raymondia). Karst. Flora Colomb. i. 95, 96; tab. 47. Carácas.
333. *P. pedanculata Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 822; Walp. Ann. iii. 516; Bonpl. ii. 24. Merida and Colony Tovar (Moritz, Wagener).
334. *P. plumosa Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 608. Venezuela.
335. *P. pruinosa Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 608. Carácas (A.E.).
336. *P. Raymondi Rchb.* Walp. Ann. iii. 520; Bot. Mag. 5385. (Duboisia Raymondi Karst.; Walp. Ann. i. 773). Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).
337. *P. racimeflota Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 607; Hook. Exot. Flora, 123. Venezuela.

338. *P. ruscifolia R.Br.* Griseb. Flora, 608; Hook. Exot. Flora, 197. Carácas, Galipan (A.E.).
339. *P. sarcophylla Rchb.* Bonpl. iii. 224; Walp. Ann. vi 181. Carácas.
340. *P. semipellucida Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 823; Walp. Ann. iii. 517. Carácas (Otto).
341. *P. sicaria Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 608. Venezuela.
342. *P. subpellucida Klotzsch.* Walp. Ann. vi. 166. Venezuela (Wagener).
343. *P. testifolia Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 609. Venezuela.
344. *P. triangularis Kl. et Karst.* Walp. Ann. i. 773; Bonpl. ii. 25. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
345. *P. tridentata Klotzsch.* Reichenb. in Schiller's Kat. No. 936. Carácas.
346. *P. tripterantha Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 24; Xen. orchid. i. 73; tab. 28, iii. 4–6. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).
347. *P. tripteris Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 829; Walp. Ann. iii. 519, vi. 177. Carácas, 4000 feet (Funck and Schlim, Wagener, A.E.).
348. *P. tripterygia Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 24; Walp. Ann. vi. 173; Xen. orchid. i. 74; tab. 28, iv. 7–9. Carácas (Wagener).
349. *P. Trujillensis Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 25; Walp. Ann. vi. 178. Trujillo, 6000 feet (Wagener).
350. *P. velaticaulis Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 824; Walp. Ann. iii. 517. Carácas (Otto).
351. *P. velatipes Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 828; Walp. Ann. iv. 518. Merida (Moritz).
352. *P. Wageneriana Kl.* Bonpl. ii. 26: Walp. vi. 182. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).
353. *P. xanthochlora Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 823; Walp. Ann. iii. 516. Merida (Moritz).
354. *P. xiphochila Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 831; Xen. orchid. i. 173; tab. 60, v. 8, 9. Merida (Moritz).

LVII. POGONIA.

355. *P. Moritzii Rchb.* Xen. orchid. ii. 89. Merida (Moritz).
356. *P. physurifolia Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 637. Venezuela.
357. *P. rosea Rchb.* Xen. orchid. ii. 89 (Cleistes rosea

Lindl.); Bonpl. ii. 11. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.). Common in savannas.

358. *P. tenuis Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 637. Venezuela.

LVIII. POLYSTACHIA.

359. *P. caracasana Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 15; Walp. Ann. vi. 641. Carácas (Wagener).

LIX. PONERA.

360. *P. leucantha Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 22; Walp. Ann. vi. 453 (Scaphyglottis leucantha Rchb., Linn. xxii. 856); Xen. orchid. i. 43; tab. 19, 7–10. Merida, 7000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

361. *P. punctulata Rchb.* Bonpl. iii. 220; Walp. Ann. vi. 451. Cultivated by Geitner in Planitz, who obtained it from Venezuela.

362. *P. striata.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1456.

LX. PONTHIEVA.

363. *P. glandulosa R.Br.* Bonpl. ii. 11. Griseb. Flora, 638. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).

364. *P. maculata Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 11. Colony Tovar, 6000 feet (Wagener).

LXI. PRESCOTTIA.

365. *Pr. stachyoides Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 639. Carácas (A.E.).

LXII. PTERICHIS.

366. *Pt. Diuris Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 10. Merida (Wagener).

LXIII. RESTREPIA.

367. *R. elegans Karst.* Answahl. Gen. Venez. ii. Bot. Mag. 5966. Carácas, 5000–6000 feet (Karsten, Wagener, A.E.).

368. *R. erythroxantha Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 817; Bonpl. ii. 23; Walp. Ann. vi. 205; Xen. orchid. i. 171, tab. 60; ii. 2. Merida, 7000 feet (Wagener).

369. *R. Lansbergii Rchb. and Wagener.* Bonpl. ii. 23; Walp. Ann. vi. 205; Bot. Mag. 5257; Xen. orchid. i. 170, tab. 60; i. 1. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).

370. *R. vittata Regel.* Ann. des Scienc. nat. 4 série, Bot. vi. 373. Carácas (Lansberg).

371. *R. Wageneri Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 23; Walp. Ann. vi. 205; Xen. orchid. i. 172, tab. 60, iii. 3. Merida, 7000 feet (Wagener).

LXIV. RODRIGUEZIA.

372. *R. secunda H.B.K.* Nova. gen. et sp. pl. i. 367; tab. 92; Bot. Mag. 930. Carácas (A.E.). Rather uncommon.

LXV. SCELOCHILUS.

373. *Sc. Ottonis Kl.* Walp. vi. 688; Bonpl. ii. 14. Silla de Carácas, 5600 feet (Otto); Carácas (Wagener).

374. *Sc. stenochilus Rchb.* vi. 689. (Rodriguezia stenochila Lindl.). Jají, 6000 feet (Linden).

LXVI. SOBRALIA.

375. *S. paradisiaca Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 816. Merida, 5000 feet (Funck and Schlim).

376. *S. violacea Lind.* var. *albiflora.* Bonpl. ii. 11; Flore des Serres, viii. 247. Merida, 5000 feet (Wagener).

LXVII. SOLENIDIUM.

377. *S. racemosum Lindl.* Reichenb. in Schiller's Kat. 1039. (Merida).

LXVIII. SPIRANTHES.

378. *Sp. bicolor Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 641. Carácas, Catuche (A.E.).

379. *Sp. elata Rich.* Griseb. Flora, 641. Carácas, forests on the south-side of the mountain range of Avila (A.E.).

380. *Sp. grandiflora.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 2438.

381. *Sp. minutiflora Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 11. Carácas (Wagener).

382. *Sp. picta*, var. b. *grandiflora Lindl.* Rchb. Linn. xxvi. 142. Maiquetia, near La Guayra (Wagener); Carácas, Catuche (A.E.).

383. *Sp. Scopulariæ Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 11; Griseb. Flora, 641. Caripe (Moritz). Carácas, among grasses on savannas (Wagener, A.E.).

LXIX. STANHOPEA.

384. *St. eburnea Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 584; Bot. Mag. 3359. Venezuela, but no precise locality mentioned (Wagener).

385. *St. Wardii Lodd.* Walp. Ann. vi. 588; Bot. Mag. 5289. Carácas (Wagener, Appun, A.E.). "Cigarron." This

being the vulgar name of various species of large dipterous and hymenopterous insects with which the flowers have some distant similitude.

LXX. STELIS.

386. *St. alata.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 2154.
387. *St. coriifolia.* Ibid. 2144.
388. *St. cymbiformis.* Ibid. 1465.
389. *St. Fendleri.* Ibid. 1470.
390. *St. grandis Rchb.* Bonpl. iii. 70; Walp. Ann. vi. 200. Merida (Funck and Schlim).
391. *St. gutturosa Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 23; Walp. Ann. vi. 201. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).
392. *St. humilis.* Eaton orchid. Findl. 1466, 1467.
393. *St. lutea.* Ibid. 1461.
394. *St. major Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 23; Walp. Ann. vi. 199. Carácas. Sierra Nevada (Wagener).
395. *St. micrantha Sw.* Griseb. Flora, 611. Hook. Exot. Fl. 158. El Valle, south of Carácas (A.E.).
396. *St. muscosa.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1468.
397. *St. muscifera.* Ibid. 1460.
398. *St. nitens Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 22; Walp. Ann. vi. 203. Carácas (Wagener).
399. *St. ophioglossoides Sw.* (?) Griseb. Flora, 611. Carácas (A.E.).
400. *St. Porpax Rchb.* Bonpl. ii. 23; Walp. Ann. vi. 203; Xen. orchid. i. 175, tab. 60, vii. 13–15. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).
401. *St. sphærochila.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1464.
402. *St. tenuilabris.* Ibid. 1469, 1471.

LXXI. STENIA.

403. *St. pallida Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 542. Bonpl. ii. 15. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

LXXII. STENORRHYNCHUS.

404. *St. orchidioides Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 642; Bonpl. ii. 11; Bot. Mag. 2797. Carácas, in mountain forests (Wagener, A.E.).
405. *St. speciosus Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 642; Walp. Ann. iii. 596. Carácas (Wagener, A. E.).

LXXIII. TALPINARIA.

406. *T. bivalvis Karst.* Flora Colombiæ i. 153, tab. 76. Carácas (Karsten).

LXXIV. TELIPOGON.

407. *T. angustifolius H.B.K.* Nova gen. et sp. pl. i. 336. Páramo de Muchucíes, near the Indian village of Chachopo, 10,500 feet (Linden, Walp. Ann. vi. 863).

408. *T. Klotzscheanus Rchb.* Linn. xxii. 851; Walp. Ann. iii. 562, 851. Colony Tovar (Moritz); Walp. Ann. vi. 862; Bonpl. ii. 15. Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener).

LXXV. TETRAGAMESTUS.

409. *T. isochiloides Regel.* Ann. des Sc. nat. 4 série Bot. vi. 376. Carácas (van Lansberg).

LXXVI. TRICHOPILIA.

410. *T. albida H. Wendl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 681; Bonpl. ii. 815; Xen. orchid. ii. 103. Carácas (Wagener, A.E.).

411. *T. fragrans Rchb.* Xen. orchid. ii. 100; Walp. Ann. vi. 680. Merida, Lagunilla, 5000 feet (Linden).

412. *T. laxa Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 680; Bonpl. ii. 15 (Pilumna laxa Lindl.); Xen. orchid. ii. 100. Merida (Funck and Schlim, Wagener).

413. *T. nobilis Rchb.* Xen. orchid. ii. 100. Jají (Moritz).

414. *T. Wageneri Rchb.* (Pilumna wageneri Rchb.) Bonpl. ii. 15; Xen. orchid. ii. 100. Carácas, 5000 feet (Wagener).

LXXVII. TRIZEUXIS.

415. *T. falcata Lindl.* Genera et species, 140; Hook. Exot. Flora, 126; Bonpl. ii. 14. Carácas, on trees in dry places (Wagener, A.E.).

LXXVIII. UROPEDIUM.

416. *U. Lindenii Lindl.* Bonpl. ii. 26; Xen. orchid. i. 32, 33, tab. 15. Merida (Linden, Wagener).

LXXIX. VANILLA.

417. *V. planifolia Andr.* Griseb. Flora, 638. Carácas; common.

LXXX. WARCZIEWICZELLA.

418. *W. discolor.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1366. Reichenbach

writes the name of this genus Warszewiczella, but makes it a section of Zygopetalum.

419. *W. spec.* Eaton orchid. Fendl. 1375.

LXXXI. WULLSCHLÆGELIA.

420. *W. aphylla Rchb.* Griseb. Flora, 639. Carácas, ravine of Sebucan (A.E.).

LXXXII. ZYGOPETALUM.

421. *Z. coachleare Lindl.* Griseb. Flora, 629. Veuezuela.

422. *Z. flabelliforme Rchb.* Walp. Ann. vi. 652; Bonpl. ii. 15. Carácas, 3000 feet (Wagener). Rare.

423. *Z. gramineum Lindl.* Walp. Ann. vi. 657; Bot. Mag. 5046; Xen. orchid. i. 67, tab. 25, ii. 2–11. (Kefersteinia Rchb.) Merida, 5000–6000 feet (Linden); Carácas, 6000 feet (Wagener, A.E.).

424. *Z. sanguinolentum Rchb.* Walp. vi. 658; Xen. orchid. i. 67, tab. 25, i. 1. (Bonpl. ii. 15; Kefersteinia.) Carácas, 4500 feet (Wagener, A.E.).

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425. *Physurus brachyrrhynchus Rchb.* Xen. orchid. ii. 184. Venezuela (Fendler).

426. *Ph. hyphaematicus Rchb.* Xen. orchid. ii. 184. Venezuela (Fendler).

H.

LETTER FROM MR. R. T. C. MIDDLETON ON THE ASCENT OF THE NAIGUATÁ.

"British Legation, Carácas,
May 2, 1872.

"Dear Mr. Spence,—Permit me to add my congratulations in writing, to those I hastened to express to you by word of mouth upon your having succeeded in reaching the summit of the Peak of the Naiguatá, as yet (pardon the word) "unprofaned" by a human footprint!

"I desire, also, to offer my congratulations to the "gallant little band" who accompanied you, and amongst whom we mutually possess such highly valued friends. Still the real glory of the achievement belongs to you. Undaunted by the apparently insurmountable difficulty of the ascent (until now universally declared to be impossible here),—the extent of which difficulty could not but present itself to you in its truest proportions as you gazed at the gigantic peak from that of the Silla of Carácas, the summit of which you had reached, a short time since, at no small expense of toil and privation,—you did not hesitate to engage in the enterprise, in no mere spirit of hardihood alone, or of idle bravado, but in the hope, perchance of opening a fresh page of the great book of nature to the English student. Of adding, if but a mite, to the already richly-stored granary of knowledge possessed by our country. To which it is the duty of all her children, as it cannot but be their fervent desire, to endeavour to contribute, alike at home and abroad, by every means in their power, setting every peril at nought, as you have just so nobly done, in the cause of science and of real progress.

"I will not allude to the botanical or other discoveries made by you during your daring ascent of the Naiguatá, nor to any beauties or peculiarities of scenery disclosed by it, as the fullest delineation of the same will be disclosed to view by the pencil of the eminent Venezuelan and German artists, Bolet and Goering, who accompanied you.

"In again welcoming you back, however, from the 'dizzy peak' and from the thickets amidst which the tiger prowls, and the rattle-snake, the scorpion and many other hideous reptiles lurk, I cannot but express to you my belief that it must have been most satisfactory to you, as it most certainly would have been to me, to behold the Venezuelan friends who accompanied you devoting the intelligence, energy, power of endurance and other great qualities which so eminently characterize their race to the achievement of a really noble object, and to the attainment of a useful end, amidst the invigorating, healthy allurements of 'nature's handiwork;' nowhere more successfully carried out than here; and forgetting, if but for a moment, the enervating, exhausting, and poisonous allurements of civil warfare.—Believe me most truly yours,

"R. T. C. MIDDLETON."

J.

THE SPANISH POETRY OF SOUTH AMERICA.

By WILLIAM E. A. AXON, M.R.S.L., Honorary Secretary of the Manchester Literary Club, Miembro Corresponsal de la Sociedad de Ciencias fisícas y naturales de Carácas.

THE Spanish poetry of South America has excited very little attention in England. There is a curious likeness between the literary history of New Spain and of New England. When the United States were only a group of English colonies their literary activity was very small, and its results of little value; but when the sudden change from colonial to national life had entered fully into the consciousness of the people, there commenced an aspiration for a national literature and a national poetry. A generation passed away without anything being written in the highest forms of literature which could boast of more than local fame. The desire for an American school of poetry had also some comic effects, and led authors like Joel Barlow to suppose that because they could sing effectually the glories of Hasty Pudding, they were also equal to the writing of epic poems. The dire results of his infatuation are visible in a prodigious work entitled "The Columbiad," where the speakers are a medley of gods, mortals, rivers, and everything else to which a frenzied poet writing at fever heat can give the attributes of personal existence. Even yet the poetry of English-speaking America often retains a provincial tinge. The Americans look more to London than even to Boston for the best of their mental food. This custom, whilst it has certain advantages, must be confessed to have a dwarfing effect, especially upon the poetical spirit. For instead of depending upon those natural causes which lead to the expression of thought and sentiment in poetical form, they very often draw their inspiration from a foreign source. The characteristics of home life and scenery have left an indelible mark upon English poetry, but this is not the case, or at least to a much smaller

extent, with the poetry of America. Their grand scenery, the quaint phases of their colonial and religious life, the strange legends of the red man whom they have displaced, have contributed comparatively little to the sum total of the poetry of the Americans. This coincidence is the more remarkable that in the case of Spanish America one might have been tempted to explain the late origin of its poetry by other causes. There can be no doubt, however, that the evil policy of Spain towards her colonies had some share in retarding the development of literature in the Latin part of the New World. Spain never had any ambition to become "an august mother of free nations," and her dependencies across the seas were only valued as means by which the king's treasury might be enriched, and as places where a certain number of adventurous spirits might find scope for exertions which were not wanted in the old country. Education was discouraged, learning was confined almost exclusively to the priests, and to very few of them. So sensible were many of the richer colonists of the inferiority of the scholastic training afforded by the very few South American colleges and universities, that their sons were sent to Paris or to Madrid for the completion of their education. This was the case with Simon Bolivar, the great Liberator, who almost single-handed broke the Spanish yoke, and gave freedom to five nations. It is to this period that we must look for the new-born aspirations after a distinctive literature. It is a fact not without a certain significance that the same year that saw the printing-press introduced into Carácas also witnesssed the establishment of a revolutionary junta. This was the beginning of that struggle for independence which lasted for half a generation, and endured many reverses and defeats, but was successful at last. The history of that sanguinary war is one highly calculated to inflame the patriotism of the citizens of these new nations. If our American cousins can contrive to get material for so much glorification from the comparatively humdrum struggle in which they engaged with England, what shall be said of the war to the knife which was waged between Spain and her colonies? There are in it incidents of daring worthy of the greatest heroes, and lights and shades throwing a tinge of romance across the sober page of history. To-day the Liberator is sitting in a triumphal chariot drawn along by the hands of the fairest ladies, to-morrow he is a fugitive flying for his life, but in sunshine or in misfortune never for one moment forgetting or setting aside the one object of his life, to free his country from the cruel oppression of Spain. A struggle like this—a long pro-

tracted fight for life—illumined on the insurgent side by deeds of magnificent valour and almost inconceivable daring is a potent agent in the creation of a distinctively national feeling.

In Spanish America there are all the materials for a poetry independent of exotic influences. The glories of her forests and mountains, the smiling loveliness of her fertile plains, the traditions of the liberty-loving races who inhabited these vast regions before the first *poblador* planted his foot within them; the memories of her colonial life lit up with such episodes as the search for El Dorado, and the bloody history of the tyrant Aguirre; the story of her desperate fight for freedom with Spain, of her sons murdered in cold blood by the monster Bóves, of the heroism which at Quesaras del Medio, and above all, on the gory field of Carabobo, broke down the Spanish power—these, and a thousand other incidents of her past history, are deeds one would have expected to find immortalized in song.

There was a time when Spanish seemed destined to become the language of the world, but her rulers were not equal to the future which opened before them, and the day has passed never to return. Even at the present moment, however, it is spoken by a larger number of persons than speak the French language. The structure of Spanish is highly favourable to the mechanism of verse. The Spanish poetry of South America is now exciting attention in Old Spain, and on the Continent generally. The firm of Brockhaus of Leipzig, which is issuing a collection of Spanish authors, has included in the series a collection of specimens of South American poetry. This selection has been made by the Señora Anita J. de Wittstein.* On this charming volume the present sketch is based. The editor promises on her title-page "biographical notices of the authors," but these are of the scantiest description, consisting of not more than three lines in her most liberal moments, whilst some of the lives are even more restricted.

The first division of Señora de Wittstein's work relates to Religion. The specimens are too long for quotation. The most beautiful of them all is an imitation of Victor Hugo's "Prayer for All," in which Andres Bello has successfully transferred into his own language the spirit of that magnificent poem. We may give instead a brief poem by Julio Calcaño :—

* *Poesias de la America Meridional. Coleccionadas por Anita J. de Wittstein. Con Noticias biograficas de los autores.* Leipzig: F. A. Brockhaus, 1870.

A Dios.

¿ Qué has sido para mí ? Ser incoloro,
Sombra, vapor, espíritu impalpable ;
Ahora en otra forma yo te adoro :
Te he dado voz y cuerpo y faz amable.

Tú vienes dulcemente sonreido
Al rededor de mi lecho, vago, incierto ;
Pero al verte me siento entristecido :
Te veo en la forma de mi padre muerto.

The second part is occupied with descriptions of natural scenery. Here, perhaps, we trace a new departure, which in the future may lead to a distinctive literature. The majority of these poems, however, are occupied by generalities ; yet in some, as in Lozano's "Recuerdo de Puerto-Cabello," local circumstances—the flowers of the soil—have been turned into poetry.

The section on Youth, Love, and Friendship contains many beautiful poems. We may give the opening passage of a poem by Doña Gertrudis G. de Avellaneda, in which the hot imaginings of youth are well expressed :—

"Abre tus puertas, mundo ! . . . ensancha, vida,
Para mi tu camino !
Broten raudales de placer divino,
De amor, de libertad ! grandes pasiones
Dadme, dadme, sin fin . . . mi alma encendida
Se agita en sed de vivas emociones.
Quiero agotar ¡ o vida ! tus tesores,
Devorar quiero, mundo tus placeres,
Gloria, virtud, festines y mujeres ;
Cantos, risas, y amores. . . .
Todo debe formar mi alta ventura,
Todo lo encierras en tu rico seno,
Como guardan las flores
En su cáliz feliz la esencia pura."

Then we have poems on Sorrow, Misfortune, and Death. This is a section in which the poet's art is still more severely tried, for however pleasant it may be to sing the pleasures of youth at its spring-tide, it is certainly more blessed, as it is more difficult, to pour balm into wounded hearts, and to bind up the bleeding wounds which sorrow and death have caused.

In many of these poems the influence of Catholicism is strongly visible. There is something exquisitely beautiful in the tender faith with which the mothers bring their sorrows to, and seek consola-

ation from, the maid of Nazareth. The Virgin, the type at once of sacred and secular beauty, is the most prominent figure in the religion of South America. In her are united the loveliness of maidenhood, and the hopes and tendernesses of maternity. Perhaps one could not have a stronger proof of this than the fact that even Arvelo, the great satirical poet, leaving quips and cranks aside, goes out of his way to indite an *Ave Maria.*

A somewhat daring strain is that of José Joaquin de Olmedo in his "Soneto en la Muerte de mi Hermana :"—

Y ¿ eres tú, Dios, á quien podre quejarme ?
Inebriando en tu gloriá y poderío,
Ver el dolor que me devora impío.
Y una mirada de piedad negarme ?

Mandar alzar otra vez por consolarme
La grave losa del sepulcro frio,
Y restituye, o Dios, al seno mido
La hermana que has querido arrebatarme.

Yo no te la pedí. Qué ! es por ventura
Crear por destruir placer divino,
O es de tanta virtud indigno el suelo ?

O ya del coro absorto en tu luz pura
Te es ménos grato el incesante trino
¿ Dime, faltaba este ángel á tu cielo ?

Shorter and more cheerful is this piece by José María Reina, not included by Señora Wittstein :—

ESPERA ! . . .

En medio del desierto está el oásis ;
Despues de las tinieblas llega el dia ;
De las horas acerbas de agonía
Vienen la calma y el consuelo en pos.

Y del amargo cáliz que el destino
A beber nos condena gota á gota,
Allá en el fondo del brebaje brota
El suave néctar que derrema Dios.

A similar piece, which originally appeared in the *Museo Venezolano,* to which it was contributed by Señor Domingo Rafael Hernandez :—

MI ESPERANZA.

¿ Ves esa humilde tumba silenciosa
Donde brota la flor de los recuerdos ?
Pues aye : tengo mi esperanza, hermosa.
Mucho mas lejos, mucho mas lejos. . . .

¿Ves esa nubes de alabastro i rosa
Que son del air caprichosos juegos?
Pues aun existe mi esperanza, hermosa,
Mucho mas lejos, mucho mas lejos. . . .

¿Ves la azulada bóveda espaciosa
Donda lanzan los astros sus destellos?
Pues aun fulgura mi esperanza
Mucho mas lejos, mucho mas lejos. . . .

Ni astros, ni nubes, ni funerea losa,
Puedon de mi esperanza dar los templos,
Que *Dios* impera, idolatrada hermosa,
Mucho mas lejos, mucho mas lejos. . . .

The following translation is offered :—

MY HOPE.

"Seest thou yon silent lowly tomb
Where flowers bloom and children play?"
I see, but ah! I have my hope
Not there, but far, far, far away.

"Seest thou yon clouds of white and red
On Heaven's fair bosom sport and play?"
I see, but ah! I have my hope
Not there, but far, far, far away.

"Seest thou yon dome of azure sky
Where sparkle stars of silver ray?"
I see, but ah! I have my hope
Not there, but far, far, far away.

Nor stars, nor clouds, nor mossy tomb
Can be for me a hope and stay;
For while God reigns my hope must be
Not there—but far, far, far away.

There is a good selection of comic poetry in the book. Notwithstanding the traditional gravity of the Spanish character, it has a vein of humour running through it. The same race which produced the mad seriousness of Don Quixote produced also the comic wisdom of Sancho Panza, with his quaint proverbs and shrewd jests.

Of this class, from their brevity, we may take several examples :—

THE OLD MAN'S ANSWER.

(*Gabriel A. Real de Azua.*)

They told Beltran that love
For old men was not fit,
That they should watch the sport,
And afar off sit.

He replied, "If Love
Is fire, as you repeat,
Snowy age should surely
Seek it for its heat."

All is not Gold that Glitters.

(*Manuel M. Fernandez.*)

Donosto to the public gave
Old stories very badly told,
Well printed in a portly tome,
And bound in cloth of gold.

And those who read his limping lines
No trouble had in finding
The only gold about the book,
Was that upon the binding.

Love's Weapons.

(*Francisco Manuel Martinez de Navarrette.*)

When Cupid first Clarinda saw,
His golden darts he threw away;
"Those shining eyes,"
The love-god cries,
"Shall be my weapons from to-day."

Epigram.

(*Simon Calcaño.*)

Upon Juana's table lay
A pretty little horn,
I begged it from her as a gift,
For it was Christmas morn.

But she refused to give it me,
And, playing with her ring,
"My husband's property," she said,
"I hold a sacred thing."

We add the original which first appeared in the *Museo Venezolano*:—

Tenia Juana un cachito
Precioso, sobre su mesa,
I dijela: linda pieza!
Mia será por San Benito.

I ella contestome así
Con un aire mui cumplido:
"Las casas de mi marido
Son sagradas para mi."

The following authors figure in Señora de Wittstein's Anthology :—Don Florencio Balcarce, an Argentine poet, who died at Buenos Ayres 16th May 1839; Don Raphael Maria Baralt, who was born at Maracaybo in 1810; Don Adolfo Berro, born at Montevideo 11th August 1819, and died 28th September 1841; Don José Maria Cantilo, born in Buenos Ayres; Don Alejandro Magariños y Cervantes, born at Montevideo 3d October 1825; Don Jacinto Chacon, born in Chili 1822; Don José Manuel Cortes, a native of Bolivia; Don Felix Maria Delmonte, born in the city of Santa Domingo 20th November 1819; Don Luis L. Dominguez, born at Buenos Ayres; Don Esteban Echeverria, born at Buenos Ayres; Don Francis Acuña de Figueroa, born in Montevideo at the end of last century; Don Juan Godoy, born at Mendoza (Argentine Republic) in 1793; Don Juan Carlos Gomez, born 25th July 1820; Don Bartolomé Hidalgo, born at Montevideo; Don Manuel Inurrieta, born in Chascomus, Buenos Ayres; Don Hermogenes Irisarri, born in Chili 19th April 1819; Don Juan Crisóstomo Lafinur, born in the Argentine Republic 27th January 1797, died 13th August 1824; Don Eusebio Lillo, born in Chili 14th August 1826; Don A. Lozano, a native of Venezuela; Don Esteban Luca, born in Buenos Ayres, died March 1824; Don M. M. Madiedo, a native of Nueva Granada; Don José Fernandez Madrid, born in Cartagena, Nueva Granada, died in London in 1830; Don José Antonio Martin, born at Puerto-Cabello; Doña Mercedes Martin de Solar, born at Santiago, Chili; Don José Marmol, Librarian of the Biblioteca Pública of Buenos Ayres, where he was born; Don José Joaquin de Olmedo, born at Guayaquil about 1784; Don Melchior Pacheco y Obes, born in Uraguay 9th January 1810; Don Felipe Pardo y Aliaga, born in Lima about 1806; Don Mariano Ramallo, born at Oruro, Bolivia, 24th September 1817; Don Gabriel Alejandro Real de Azúa, born at Buenos Ayres; Don José Manuel Valdes, Director of the Collegio de Medicena y Cirugia de Lima; Don Florencio Varela, a native of Buenos Ayres; Don Juan Cruz Varela, born at Buenos Ayres 24th November 1794, died at Montevideo 24th January 1839.

The last section of the work is occupied with patriotic homages and songs. In this section there is a striking absence of those qualities we should expect. Talent there is but not genius, and nothing worthy of the heroic deeds by which the freedom of South America was achieved.

There are some notable omissions in the book. Since it was

edited by a lady we need not be surprised that the name of Arvelo does not occur in it, for although he is the wittiest of their writers his jokes sometimes turn upon themes which are not of the purest. His muse also is strongly political, yet there are touches in some of his poems which certainly give him a right to rank in the national Valhalla.

Still more noticeable is the omission of any reference to Heraclio M. de la Guardia. There is much in his writings worthy of admiration. There is vigour and power about his larger efforts and a richness of diction which make him one of the foremost poets of Latin America, whilst in his shorter pieces there is a compactness which one would desire more of his fellow-writers to strive after. For an example we will (in conclusion) take a poem in four lines only :—

AMOR Y LIBERTAD.

Dos cosas en el mundo me son caras ;
Amor y Libertad sólo querria.
Mi vida diera del Amor en aras ;
Pero à Libertad mi Amor daria.

The following is a translation :—

LOVE AND LIBERTY.

I sigh for Liberty and Love,
And these suffice for me ;
My life I offer up to Love,
My Love to Liberty.

K.

ASCENT OF THE SILLA DE CARÁCAS BY JUAN MANUEL CAJIGAL.

Excursion to the Silla de Carácas in August 1833, *by Señor Juan Manuel Cajigal and Sixteen Companions.* Translated from the *Memorias de la Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País*, 1833. With some Observations on the Plants mentioned in this Excursion, by DR. A. ERNST. Translated from *La Opinion Nacional* of June 12, 1872.

WHEN the illustrious traveller Alexander von Humboldt landed upon our coasts at the close of 1799, and spoke of his intended excursion to the summit of the Avila, known by the name of the Silla de Carácas, he sought in vain amongst the inhabitants of this city for a person who had ascended it.

Such was the direction that the dark policy of the Spanish cabinet had given to the education of its unfortunate colonists, that even in Carácas, which possessed, without doubt, the most enlightened, there was no one who had thought of acquiring a knowledge of the rarities enclosed by the Cordillera of the coast of Venezuela, and especially the branch of the Avila. Nor were there found any persons who had learned the heights of its most notable peaks. He therefore found it requisite to examine for himself the skirts of the mountain, to determine which would be the most convenient part to commence the ascent. Others have ascended it since who have either been animated simply by curiosity, or else have not cared to publish the results of their observations, and have passed without marking the path by which to arrive, in the quickest and easiest manner, at the eastern peak of the Silla, its highest point.

In the present day this state is altered, the spirit of liberty is rapidly changing the apathy produced by despotism, and if thirty years ago there was not a single individual who had ascended the Silla, to-day there are many young men who can serve as guides to

the future traveller in the road which has led them to the summit, and which appears to be the least toilsome and rugged; and their expedition and its results we are about to describe in the present paper.

Sixteen young men having planned an out to the Silla, put themselves on the march about mid-day on the 30th August in the present year 1833. At starting there was some deliberation and doubt as to the proper route to be followed; some thinking it best to pass the night in the hacienda of Dr. Ramon Monzon, situated at the foot of the eastern peak and nearest the point called Los Dos Caminos; others that it would be wiser to stay overnight in the house of Señor Juan Manuel Matamoros, which stands at a considerable height, though sufficiently aside, at the west of the said peak. This last was chosen as it could be followed on horseback, and thus save some of the fatigues of the journey necessarily too great to need any prolongation of the part to be climbed. The weather was not very favourable, and they had to form a resolution to endure some rain-showers in order not to delay any longer the time of departure. Nor did they forget to inquire for some one more or less familiar with the paths which lead to the crest of the mountain. These arrangements made, the party, well provided with food and with some good instruments,* set out on the day appointed. At Sabana Grande, and a little before reaching the house called Los Colegialas, they left the highway, and turned to the right by a pass which leads to the height of the hacienda of Matamoros. Whilst the crest of the strip of mountain in which this pass opens is sufficiently steep, it is nevertheless possible to climb it on horseback. The ravine of Chacaito continues to the right of that ascended, and the direction is due north, until the view of the house of Matamoros is lost behind the crest of the strip, and takes the left skirt declining into a little ravine not far from that house. Before arriving at this crest they perceived very clearly the enormous mass of the western peak of the Silla, which besides being very steep is covered with tall and thick wood in which are many gigantic palms. There are also many perpendicular fissures by which are precipitated the little torrents that make up the ravine of Chacaito. It was five o'clock in the evening when the travellers came to the above-named house, ac-

* These instruments were, an excellent centigrade thermometer by Colardeau, a syphon barometer of Bunsen's make, marked with the number 6, which, compared with one that exists of the same class in the Observatory of Paris, gave ten millimetres of difference, and a Saussure's hair hygrometer which Dr. José Maria Vargas was kind enough to lend.

companied by the brother of its master, who had joined them on the road. This generous and kind-hearted peasant placed everything at their disposal which his small house contained. He was the first to give them some hope of success in their expedition, indicating the best place for continuing the ascent and offering to accompany them to a place called La Ciénega, which he assured them he knew well, having saved himself there from the ravages of the inhuman Bóves.

At half-past five the free thermometer and the one attached to the barometer marked 22°·5 temperature; the barometric column 644·5 millimetres; and the Saussure hygrometer 74° of moisture. At forty minutes past six next morning this observation was repeated: the two thermometers marked 16°·3; the mercury of the barometers, having condensed in proportion to the diminution of temperature, stood at 643·5. The air held in suspension a great quantity of watery vapour, so that the hygrometer rose to 82°, indicating a condition of the atmosphere bordering upon saturation. As already at this height there appeared some alpine plants, it was thought to determine this as the lower limit of the zone in which they grow. With this object, before leaving Carácas, an observation was made in the Mathematical School in the Esquina de Salvador de Leon, at eleven o'clock in the morning, when the free thermometer marked 24°·9, the fast one 25°·2, and the barometer 695. Introducing these data in the formula of Laplace, the height of the house of Matamoros appeared from the observation of the evening to be 655, and by that of the morning 651. These calculations made at such different hours, varied as little as could be expected, and gave as the medium 653 metres or 334½ *toesas* above Carácas.

Having made every arrangement for attaining the summit this day, the party set out at half-past six in the morning in a N.W. direction, passing through a portion of the coffee plantation of Señor Matamoros, who, accompanied by an expert, preceded the travellers. The crest of the strip they followed, whilst sufficiently steep in some parts, was far from inspiring fear. If it had not been partly cleared for coffee-planting it would have been covered with wood, as it was, with some few interruptions, when they changed the direction of the route a little to the N.E. to follow a *pica de Leñateros*. In proportion as they advanced the vegetation became more vigorous and hardy until they encountered great thick trees in a place between plains.

Here the travellers saw themselves surrounded by a dense cloud,

which scarcely allowed them to see before them more than twenty steps, and which covered all the Cordillera up to the last hour of the evening, when it brightened up a little. When the wind from the east was blowing strongly it promised to dissipate the fog, but this came up from the regions below, destroying the pleasant views which might have been possible from this height, and rendering quite uncertain the distance necessary to conquer before reaching the end of the journey. Nevertheless the beauty of the plants met with at every step was enough to console the travellers. Some of these, as, for example, the *Neottia vaginata*, mentioned by Kunth in Peru, have not elsewhere been found in this country. The beautiful *Befaria glauca*, which may fairly be considered as the rose of the Avila, was found from the house of Matamoros to the summit of the eastern peak, where it was scarcely three feet high, whilst in the wood it is sometimes eight feet in height. At a thousand metres above the sea, they found the *Alstroemeria rosea* with beautiful red tile coloured flowers spotted underneath, in company with the *Befaria ledifolia* and the *Bredemeyera floribunda*, of a fine cobalt blue colour. The odorous Gaultheria known as the *pesjua*, was noticed on leaving the wood, along with the *Trixes* of Swartz (the fragrant incense of the Silla), which rises in this part to a height of 15 feet, and which continued with greater or lesser abundance all the remainder of the ascent. A rapid descent which presented itself made the travellers doubt if they were really on the way to the Silla, as the cloud in which they were enveloped rendered it impossible to make out the surroundings, but a steep and difficult rise dissipated their fears, and led them by 10 o'clock A.M. to a small and agreeable piece of table-land surrounded by peaks and known by the name of *La Ciénaga* (the Marsh), a designation it has received from the ground in this place being moist and in some parts muddy, an effect caused no doubt by the nightly condensation of the vapours, and by the waters flowing down from the surrounding heights. Its length from north to south would be, perhaps, 300 metres, but its average width was not more than 50. All this is covered with a species of *Podosæmum alpestre*, amongst which are scattered the plants we have mentioned and many others; one of these we may name for its abundance the *Hypericum caracasanum*, whose flower is very small, and of a blue colour slightly tinged with violet.

Almost in the centre of this lovely plain they found an excellent spring, the existence of which is easily explained. The water com-

ing down as rain enters the soil, is pushed further down by that which filters in later until it encounters an impermeable layer of earth, where it accumulates. In the dry season many springs dry up by excessive evaporation, but that of La Ciénaga is abundant all the year round, partly because it receives the filtration water of all the surrounding heights, and partly because it is sheltered by an enormous granite stone, which protects it from the immediate action of the sun's rays. Probably this stone, and others near it, were at one time portions of the nucleus of the mountain, but being on the surface have been loosened by the continual shock of the waters. This delightful spot appeared the most suitable for a halt, whilst the travellers discussed a meal not quite so frugal as that which Humboldt was forced to take when he ascended this mountain. The water of the spring could only be drunk in small draughts. The thermometer was submerged in it for a quarter of an hour at 10.30 A.M. and lowered to 14°, a result which may be considered as giving the average temperature of the surrounding peaks. The same instrument registered in the open air 16°, being approximately the average temperature, if notice be taken of the month and hour in which the observation was made. We need not repeat that every precaution was taken to avoid all causes of error which influence these thermometrical indications. Of all meteorological observations the most delicate and the most difficult are those relating to temperature, because the methods so far devised for the arrangement of thermometers do not fully answer the end in view. If the instrument be suspended at five or six feet from the ground it may still be influenced by the heat of the soil; and if it is put in the shade, although the place may not be very sheltered, perhaps its indications may be deceitful from not being exposed to the action of sufficient air to graduate the temperature. Again, there is a continual variation in small local atmospheres, an inevitable consequence of the winds which lead to a continual change in the thermometer, causing it alternately to rise and fall. The temperature of the barometric column was not uniform with that of the free air. The fastened thermometer marked 16°·5 when it was at a height of 589·5 millimetres. The hygrometer marked 82° of humidity. These data showed that the plain was 1410 metres or 723·38 *toesas* above Carácas.

At 11·30 the the travellers left *La Ciénaga* in a northerly direction. The grasses at the northern extremity of the *mesita* were 15 feet high, and so thorny that it was with great difficulty a passage

could be forced through the dense thicket which they formed. After having walked some 1500 metres they were again on the crest of the Cordillera, and once more surrounded by fog. The precipices which they observed towards the north, crowned with masses of granite, showed that they were not far from the western peak. In point of fact, after a short and easy descent, and another ascent longer and steeper, they came to a height which was unknown, as there was no point visible with which to compare it. The great descent they had previously made led them to suspect that if this was not the western peak it was at least a notable point of the Cordillera, for which reason they resolved to make an observation with the instruments. It was now 1.30 P.M., and the two thermometers indicated a temperature of 15°·8, the barometer marking 577 and the hygrometer showing 84° of humidity. According to the previous formula the height of this peak was 1589 metres, or 815·33 *toesas* above Carácas. It was not until the next day that they found out they had not been very happy in the selection of their station, for one twenty metres higher had been passed unobserved when walking into a cloud of hairy bees, which Humboldt has confounded with those generally called *angelitos*. These were certainly not so inoffensive, as they sting without being urged by necessity, as some of the travellers found. They may with justice be termed *bad angels!* In this place were seen unequivocal signs that these heights are frequented by the Tapir or Danta, considered by naturalists as the elephant of the American continent.

The remarkable pyramid which forms the eastern peak was visible for some moments, and looked as though it might be touched by the hands, although it really could not be reached without descending from this spot and crossing the wood of *musaceas*, of which Humboldt spoke. In this descent they came into the route of the celebrated traveller, reaching the place at the same hour, that is, at two o'clock in the afternoon. When they examined the form of this pyramid they found that, as Humboldt had remarked, in order to reach the highest peak it is necessary to keep as closely as possible to the enormous precipice which slopes down to Caraballeda.

At 2.30 P.M. a wind from the east cleared the summit, and allowed it to be seen in all its majesty; its sides covered with masses of granite, though not from any want of vegetation, for the learned traveller attributed the nudity of the eastern and western peaks, amongst other causes, to the frequent fires in the mountains of this

equinoctial region. If thirty-three years ago grasses and some small shrubs of *Befaria* only were found, at present there can be seen the *Trixes* of Swartz growing in abundance to a height of four metres, and various other plants.

The ascent is steep but not dangerous, and can be done in an hour, although our travellers took a somewhat longer time to reach the top. The dreadful precipice which descends to Caraballeda cannot be looked upon without fear. There are few mountains whose sides are so nearly vertical as to form with the horizon an angle of 52°, which is the inclination of this part of the peak.

When our travellers trod the summit they felt a sensation of cold the thermometer did not justify, a phenomenon easily explained by the rapidity with which the evaporation of perspiration takes place in a rarified air. For a similar reason the repercussion of the perspiration, caused by the transitions from heat to cold and from action to repose, in ascending great heights, is not dangerous. This is not the case with descents, although the fatigue is less. At 4.4 P.M. the instruments were again observed; the free thermometer indicated a temperature 14°·2, the fast one 15°, and the barometric column 562. The hygrometer marked 82° of humidity. These data gave as the height of the eastern peak of the Silla 1830 metres or 930·24 *toesas* above Carácas.

Humboldt, who has occupied himself very largely with meteorological observations, has found that an elevation of 200 metres corresponds to a fall of one degree in the centigrade thermometer; Saussure considers this fall equivalent to a rise of 195 metres, and Gay Lussac, who in his aeronautical voyage occupied himself with this law, notes that the diminution of temperature follows an arithmetical proportion, in which the descent of a degree is equal to 187·4 metres. The difference of level between the eastern peak and the house of Matamoros is 1177 metres, and as this difference would increase to 1555 metres according to Gay Lussac's law, we may be certain that of the three this is the one nearest the truth, and so most worthy of confidence.

The sky was now clear, and the view embraced an immense space. It cannot be doubted that Humboldt in the short time he remained upon the Silla had not the good fortune to enjoy a perfectly clear atmosphere, and hence could not see all that might have arrested the attention of a savant. We may believe this when he assures us that the Cordillera of Ocumare impeded the view of the Llanos of Calabozo. Our voyagers, on the contrary, noted that the de-

pression in its centre allowed the eye to see away to the south a great part of the vast *llanuras* which extend to the margin of the Orinoco, closed in by a terrestrial horizon, as the view on the north was by the sea. *To the same cause may perhaps be attributed the silence of Humboldt respecting the existence of the Peak of Naiguatá, which, standing at a short distance from that of the Silla, may justly dispute with it the first place amongst the high peaks of the Cordillera of the Avila.*

The narrowness of the *meseta* did not allow our travellers to use it as the base for a trigonometrical determination of the relative heights, and they had to content themselves with measuring the angle of elevation, which was three degrees. It is not so easy to explain, by the supposition of an atmosphere charged with vapour, the deception which has led the savant to say in conclusion that the western peak of the Silla deprived him of the view of the city of Carácas, whilst in the judgment of our travellers nearly all its houses were visible from the eastern peak, though only some were able to see the suburb of La Pastora.

Although the air was not perfectly clear they could distinguish without difficulty all the valley of Carácas, and a great part of the valleys of the Tuy, with all the intermediate branches of the Cordillera, including the routes from El Valle to the Tuy and the new coach-road beginning at the height of Coche, and running in the direction of the valleys of Aragua. The high mountains of Guarayma prevented a view of these valleys, but the road leading to them by the heights of Higuerote and Las Lagunetas was distinctly seen. The mountains of Tipe were also perceptible, and the turns which they make towards the sea in the direction of Carayaca and Tarma. The villages of Petare, Chacao, Baruta, El Valle, and La Vega were distinctly seen, and lastly, to the south, according to Humboldt, the narrow curtain of cultivated land contrasted agreeably with the savage and melancholy aspect of the hills surrounding it, and to the north the narrow valley of Carabelleda interposed between the base of the Cordillera and the mouth of the sea, gave additional grandeur to the aspect of the peak. Some slight vapours which seemed to rest upon the sea prevented them from clearly marking the line which separated it from the atmosphere, and consequently rendered the islands of Orchila, Tortuga, Aves, and Los Roques invisible, although they were included in the horizon open to the spectator. This horizon would include thirty leagues if we leave out the effects of refraction. Although the travellers might

have come down from the peak during the same evening, they preferred to stay in order to enjoy the sight of the landscape at daybreak. They prepared to pass the night on the peak, but had not counted upon the sudden changes of weather so frequent at this season. Whilst the east wind kept up the air remained clear, but as soon as the west wind began to blow dense clouds accumulated upon the peak; then came a rainfall which lasted from nine to eleven, at which hour it ceased, and good weather again returned. This unforeseen event was fatal to the comfort of those who had expected to sleep tranquilly upon the peak. Their wet clothes and the damp soil made them watch with impatience for the return of day to put an end to the melancholy plight in which they found themselves.

At five in the morning a return of bad weather was threatened, for the winds again varied, and on opening the box containing the hygrometer, the instrument which at first only marked 85° of humidity rapidly rose to 90°; but the east wind prevailing dissipated the vapours, and it fell to 84°, at which figure it remained stationary. Humboldt noticed the exact contrary effect upon the *hygrometro de ballena* of Deluc, for when in a great cloud which prevented him from seeing the nearest objects, this instrument, instead of being affected by the watery vapour, marked a degree less of humidity than it had done before the existence of the cloud. Others have noticed similar phenomena, but although they can be satisfactorily explained, it is not less certain that these are only caused by special atmospheric conditions.

At six o'clock the thermometer marked 10° temperature, and if it is recollected that at 4.30 P.M. the preceding evening the same instrument showed 14°·2, we shall not be far wrong in supposing that the average temperature of the day was 12°·5. It is known that the average temperature of the month of October is the same as the average temperature of the year, and as this observation just mentioned was made on the 1st of September, we may fix, approximately, the average temperature of the eastern peak at 12°, which is equal to that of Philadelphia. At this hour the air was perfectly clear; they could see with precision the objects already named, except the nearest valleys, which were covered with a great cloud as white as cotton. This rapidly cleared away from the city and villages on the banks of the Guaire. As these vapours in rising slipped away by the folds of the mountain, the previous observations were not repeated, as it was feared, and not without foundation,

that they would lower the barometric column and increase the temperature.

At half-past six they began the descent, and on coming to the seat of the Silla they thought it proper to determine its height. The barometric column was 585·5, the temperature of the air 14°·5, and of the mercury 14°, which data would make its height to be 1462 metres or 750·8 *toesas* above Carácas. At half-past nine the travellers had reached La Ciénaga, and having left it at eleven reached the house of Matamoros at half-past one, and were in Carácas before four o'clock.

Here we might conclude our relation, but as they took the Academy of Mathematics for the point of comparison in determining the heights, it is clear that they cannot be compared with the results obtained by Humboldt without a barometric observation at the level of the sea. To complete this matter two of the young gentlemen who ascended the Silla, in the days immediately following, went to Maiquetia, where they found that the mercury at the mouth of the sea was 764·6, the temperature of the air 26°·6, and the mercury 25°·9. From these data the height of the Academy of Mathematics may be reckoned at 815 metres or 419 *toesas*, and consequently the elevation of the eastern peak of the Silla at 2628 metres or 1349·24 *toesas*, a result which differs from that of Humboldt by less than a *toesa*, and, whilst confirming the observations of this savant, it shows the degree of faith which can be placed in those of our travellers. We conclude this narrative by a list of plants which have been brought down by them, and which have been classified by Dr. José Maria Vargas, who kindly undertook the task.

Plants gathered on the Avila by Señor Juan Manuel Cajigal and his companions.

Baillieria Nereifolia, called "Incienso de la Silla."
Equisetum Humboldtii.
Basella marginata.
Gualtheria odorata (pesgua olorosa).
Gualtheria coccinea (pesgua macho).
Gay laussacia buxifolia.
Hypericum Caracasanum.
Podosæmum alpestre (the tall grass of the Silla).
Malpighia (with yellow flower).
Sysirinchium iridifolium.
Tillandsia paniculata.

Epidendro (with rosy violet flower).
Another (drooping species).
Oncidium.
Neottia vaginata (a Peruvian plant).
Bredemeyera floribunda.
Alstrœmeria rosea (with beautiful flowers of a red tile colour, almost crimson, spotted inside with green).
Befaria glauca.
Befaria ledifolia.
Tabernæ montana umbrosa.
Chiococca paniculata.
Valeriana Caracasana.
Melastomnacea trinerve (with a small white flower).
Another quinquenerve (with a large crimson flower).
Dodonæ trialata.

Some Observations on the Plants mentioned in the Ascent of the Silla.
By Dr. A. Ernst.

The NEOTTIA VAGINATA, *Kunth* (nova gen. et spec. plant, i. 331), found by Humboldt and Bonpland near Loxa, Gonzanama, and Malacates in Peru, is probably a species of Spiranthes, but his description is very vague and might apply to various plants of the tribes of the Neotidea.

The ALSTRŒMERIA ROSEÆ (or rather *Bomaria rosea*) of the authors of the Flora Peruviæ has red flowers *streaked with black lines* (lineis nigris maculatis, Flora Peruv. iii. 61); the words of Cajigal, flores de color rojo de teja, *leonadas por dentro*, show that the species they found was the *B. Bredemeyerana, Herb.* (Alstrœmeria Bredemeyerana, Willd.), of which there is a very minute description in the *Enumeratio plantarum* of *Kunth*, v. 808. It is a creeping plant sufficiently common in our mountains, and has in its roots tubes like small potatoes, for which reason it is called *Lairen de montaña*. I recommend it to the attention of lovers of horticulture!

BREDEMEYERA FLORIBUNDA. If Cajigal did not deceive himself when saying that this was "*de un bellisimo azul de cabalto*" it could not be the plant named, which has *yellow* flowers. Its common name is *Canilla de Venado*, and it abounds in the lower parts of the valley of Carácas. I cannot recollect a single instance of having seen it in the same region as the *Befaria ledifolia*. Perhaps it may have been mistaken for the *Moñina phytolaccæfolia, Kunth*, a plant of the family of the poligaleas (to which the *Bredemeyera* also be-

longs), which abounds in the Avila and has flowers of the colour mentioned by Cajigal. (See the Vargasia 188, note 2).

INCIENSO DE LA SILLA. This is not a species of Trixis, but a type of a new species which I have described (Vargasia 185) under the name of *Libanothamnus*. For further details I must refer to that article.

The HYPERICUM CARACASANUM has yellow flowers, and not of *blue slightly violet* which are found in none of the 160 species of this genera. I cannot say what plant Cajigal's may have been.

The *Basella marginata* is probably the Anredera scanderis, Moq., which abounds in the higher parts of the mountain.

L.

FIRST VENEZUELAN FINE ARTS EXHIBITION.

(*Translated from La Opinion Nacional, 29th July* 1872.)

YESTERDAY began the exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and photographs in the salon of the Café del Avila, which will continue open two days more. To Mr. James M. Spence, an English gentleman, we owe this new development of our civilization, both in its origin and in the greater part of its happy realization. From eight o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon it was visited by numberless families and native and foreign gentlemen who had received special invitations, and from that hour until six o'clock (when the exhibition closed on account of the preparations for the banquet given to the artists by Mr. Spence) the public invaded the place, as if it were one of those religious spectacles which in past ages attracted to the churches immense crowds of the faithful. The living wave renewed itself at every instant, and the eye of the spectator passed over files of visitors of both sexes, of every age and condition, from the ancient gray-beard leaning on his staff to the proud lady with black and ringleted hair, from the mischievous boy to the grave statesman. Artists, *litterateurs*, artizans, poets, officials, antiquaries, priests, men of science, and men of labour all elbowed each other in this fane of Minerva, rendering homage to art, and hailing the advent of peace which binds all hearts in the brotherhood of civilization.

On entering the hall the aspect was indeed magnificent. The little theatre in which Meseron, the proprietor of the *café*, has so often presented to the public of Carácas his well applauded dramatic pieces, was converted into a sumptuous exhibition of sculptures and photographs, whilst the walls, hung with blue cloth, were covered from top to bottom with a multitude of paintings, drawings, and portraits, in which shone the grace and ability of the Venezuelan pencil.

Here was truly a novelty, a festival—and whilst the lively crowd investigated everything, admiring here a detail, there a beautiful combination, inquiring the names of the artists, and eulogizing them according to their respective merits, one could scarcely help wondering if this was really the artistic genius of Venezuela suddenly aroused from its lethargy, like a flower which, withering in the darkness of night, opens its leaves to the first rays of the day. And truly when we are so accustomed to see, only in a few private houses, some landscapes or portraits, or some images of saints, which are never taken down from the walls of the houses except to decorate the altars in the Corpus festival, we should almost have believed that the fine arts did not exist amongst us, or that if they did exist they were poor and shamefaced beings who hid their faces in their hoods, and only in the shades of night dared to seek the alms of the charitable. However, all that was wanting was that which was seen yesterday; that the spirit of association should bring them together, and that each should place his offering in the temple of publicity, to shine for the first time and receive the plaudits of intelligence and good taste. We thought, as we saw united so many examples of the national genius, that Mr. Spence and the enthusiastic companions who have aided him in this project had discovered the secret of forming from pearls, numerous and rich, but scattered and unknown, a magnificent necklace to embellish the statue of the arts. When our friend Meseron worked so industriously at the opening of the Salon de Señoras in his Café, however ambitious he may have been, he could not imagine that in so short a time it would be converted into a splendid sanctuary of national art, where all those who love it might burn the agreeable incense of admiration, and where they might hear words of hope, concord, and progress—the flattering prophecies of the future. The number of objects which figure in this exhibition is 230.* As we had barely time to run over them in the brief moments we spent there, we shall limit ourselves to citing the names and authors of the productions which most generally excited the attention of those who are connoisseurs in these matters—following the order of the catalogue.

The copies executed by Señora Felicia Castillo de Amundaray are in good style, especially the water-colour, *The Seal of Affection.* There are thirty-six pictures by Ramon Bolet. We may mention, *The Visit to Orchila, The Carbonero of Carácas,* and *The Procession*

* This number was greatly enlarged after the catalogue was printed.

of Côrpus, as being indisputable for their merit and originality. Nicanor Bolet Peraza, who can wield the pencil as well as the pen of the Comic Muses, shines in the *Group of Fruits* and *Cows*, marked by fidelity to nature. The portraits of Señor Spence and of General Manuel Quesada were the most noticeable works of Diego Casañas Burguillos; whilst Señor Davegno pleased very greatly by his views of *La Guayra* and *Genoa*. The portrait of General Guzman Blanco on horseback, executed by Carmelo Fernández, was reputed to be in good style, and so was that of Señor Casiano Santana, by García Beltran.

The views of the *Lake of Valencia* and *Cave of the Guácharos* are beautiful copies, which reveal the talent of the Señorita Ana Gathman; and among the various paintings of Señor Goering, all of greater or less merit, those of the *Panorama de Maracaybo*, the *Rio San Esteban*, and the *Chorro de Marare*, overtop the rest. The picture of *The Blind Hen* and *La Virgen de los pañales*, both copies by Pedro Herrera Végas, show harmonious colour and the touch of a dexterous hand. Señores Néstor Hernández and Celestino and Gerónimo Martínez enrich the exhibition with various pictures, of which, by the first, we notice the water-colour *Group of Flowers of Carácas;* by the second, the oil paintings of the *Flight into Egypt*, the story of which is told in an original and masterly manner, and the *Portrait of Marshal Falcon* on horseback, the resemblance being perfect; and by the third, the *Portrait of Señor Juan José Mendoza*, one of the most finished pictures present. Of José Manuel Maucó, we may cite as interesting copies in oil, the pictures of the *Magdalen* and *Women Bathing*. The talent and style of Señor Navarro y Cañizares were here worthily represented in the magnificent oil-painting of *Santa Clara* and the celebrated *Portraits* of the beautiful *Señora Inocente Palacios*, and of *Padre Ildefonso Riera Aguinagade*. Manuel Otero, an artist of surprising facility and invention, exhibited various views, chief amongst them being that of *La Guayra* and the original painting of the *Disembarkment at Palma Sola*. The *Venus* of Ramon Plaza is an essay which shows that in him harmony is not limited to music. With reference to Señor Martin Tovar y Tovar, the oil-painting of *Misery*, the *Study from Nature*, and the *Portrait of Señor I. J. Pardo*, would be enough to establish his reputation as an artist and as an excellent portrait painter if he had not earned it long ago.

In the section for sculpture, the palm was borne off by our young artist, Manuel Gonzalez, whose majestic work, the *Bust of General*

Francisco Mejía, has justified the praises of all intelligent persons who have at mind the exactitude, fidelity, and expression so difficult in a portrait made of wood. His busts of *Coquetry* and *Fear* prove that Gonzalez is capable of revealing to the inert matter which he touches all the passions and sentiments of the human heart. The *Lions* in clay, executed by Señorita Dolores Ugarte, are beautiful works.

In the photographs by Señor Próspero Rey, there is a precision of line, a neatness, and a suavity of colour, which would lead the observer to think that an insensible machine could not produce images so perfect as those obtained by this clever but modest artist. Señor José Antonio Sálas is of the same school as Rey,—good taste, purity, perfect resemblance, all is praiseworthy in his photographic work.

It only remains for us to add some words about the picture of the *Fountain of Pope Julius*, which does not figure in the catalogue. This picture, which is very beautiful and highly finished, was brought at the last moment from the Valle, where its author, Señor Manuel Cruz, lives. From this obscurity it was drawn by Señor Navarro y Cañizares, a fellow-student with the artist at Rome under the celebrated Madrazo. At the present time Cruz is simply a workman concealing his artist face in the obscurity of the camp. The picture of his, just named, would honour any European collection.

The exhibition was followed by a banquet given by Señor Spence to the Venezuelan artists. It commenced at eight o'clock in the evening, and was attended by the persons of whom we have given a list. The reunion was a brilliant one; the genial cordiality, the careful service, the splendid viands, all contributed to universal enthusiasm and happiness. The feast terminated about midnight, leaving in every breast the pleasantest emotions. Our country will never forget the gratitude it owes to her English guest, who has shown his love to Venezuela in acts like those of yesterday, and to the many friends who have responded worthily.

Chronicle of the Banquet.

Señor Spence expressed in feeling terms his satisfaction in seeing around him the artists whose talents had been receiving praise throughout the day from the numerous visitors who had beheld their works. He said that the execution of this idea owed less to himself than to the spontaneous co-operation of the friends present,

in whom he had ever found the most fervid enthusiasm for all that is grand and noble. He had resided a year and a half amongst them, and that period had been the happiest part of his life, and the experiences which he had passed through in the Republic warranted him in testifying to the virtues of the Venezuelan people, displayed under circumstances most unfavourable, at the very time, in fact, when they were being tested by what appeared to be a cruel, demoralizing, and sanguinary civil war.

Señor A. L. Guzman, the orator, *par excellence*, of the Republic, responded in his happiest manner. He said that he had feared to awaken from one of those enchanting dreams in which the imagination called up golden illusions, but on awakening he encountered in reality all that was beautiful in the dream. He had seen a great nation which, having experienced a peace of centuries, had raised itself to the greatest height of civilization, progress, and power; that its people had mixed their blood with ours in the great days of Independence, and that after this proof of generous sympathy they still desired to be our friend and guide in the work of progress which Venezuela has undertaken. That he had awakened from this enchanted dream and had seen Señor Spence, as though sent by noble England to give, with proofs like those they had to-day witnessed, a new testimony of the interest which she feels for our well-being.

Señor Ledo. Eduardo Calcaño afterwards spoke, and having expressed his satisfaction for the generous efforts that Señor Spence had made in favour of art in Venezuela, he defined in eloquent terms its mission, saying that our artists should draw their inspiration from the incidents of our glorious War of Independence, and thus, whether they gave animation to the marble of the sculptor or life to the canvass and paper of the painter, they might hand down to posterity monuments in which our sons would behold eloquent examples that would raise their souls to noble aspirations.

General Ramon de la Plaza, after some general views on the history and mission of art, said:—"Forty years have passed, and Venezuela sees for the first time, and even now under the protecting ægis of a stranger, an exhibition of the artistic work of her youth. Forty years, in which the stoical indifference of our governments has tried to drown that national genius for art, which after all has raised itself by the sole impulse of its own inspirations. Forty years, in which it has thought of everything except the

beneficial effects of ties between the nation and art, amongst a people essentially spiritual.

"It is a consolation, however, to see presiding at this feast of art a representative of the new era commenced by General Guzman Blanco, and we have much to hope from his enlightenment and patriotism, knowing full well that nations fulfil the most innate of their necessities, and satisfy their justest aspirations, in the cultivation of the arts, which is the cultivation of the intellect."

General Nicanor Bolet Peraza said that the best method of showing their gratitude to Señor Spence for the stimulus and patronage which since his arrival upon our shores he had given to Venezuelan talent—a stimulus raised to the grandeur of the spectacle they saw around them, would be to prove that his conception had not perished from indifference, but, on the contrary, had germinated and increased, so that next July they might solemnize this anniversary with a new exhibition. That, he added, would not need any great effort, for if they brought the aspiration under the notice of the president of the Republic, it would be enough to secure its success, as was the case with the other proposals of a similar character, which were already on the programme of his administration.

Dr. Terrero Atienza said that this being the first time that he had seen gathered together so many lovers of art, and the successful realization of Señor Spence's idea of an exhibition, was an appropriate occasion in which to point out the absurdity of a belief generally entertained and avowed by the press almost without contradiction. "It has often been said that we in Venezuela are destitute of logic, and that the results always mocked calculation and destroyed effort. This was false. In the physical, in the moral, and in the intellectual world, results always agree with causes; actions are the certain consequences of principles or premises which have been allowed to predominate. The truth was, persons had called logic that which conformed to false judgment, to spurious desires, to calculations dictated by selfishness and ambition; and in the work of insensate passion, by which they had wished to seat Falsehood upon the throne of Truth, the things which had come to pass appeared paradoxical. The republic had not existed in Venezuela in reality, but only in name; they had hunted down loyalty and patriotism, disguised under those names things which were the opposite, and seeking in the region of facts for fallacious words, many had said there was no logic in Venezuela. The proof of

the contrary was, that scarcely was a Government installed which resembled the empire of truth, of good faith, of work, and of noble aspirations; scarcely had confidence succeeded to fear before grand projects present themselves, and we were spectators of scenes like the beautiful and sublime spectacle which we owed to the efforts of Señor Spence, and of the many artists and lovers of art resident in Carácas.

"Providence had decreed that in an epoch of regeneration for our country, a son of England,—the nation of good sense,—should come amongst us, and that, with that practical instinct which the English possess, he should understand that our nation would raise herself from her fall with greater vigour than ever to re-establish the equilibrium of interests, the reign of principle, and progress in all its forms."

Señor A. L. Guzman again spoke, and graphically pictured the noble characteristics of the English people, and the great conquests which Right, peacefully discussed, had made in the long peace which wise England enjoyed, and called upon all to follow this civilized example. A new era was dawning for Venezuela, in which the weapons of discussion would be the only arms permitted in the war of aspirations. "Do this," said he; "launch the republic in the free practice of the principles it has so dearly earned, and we shall see very soon the realization of the promise of regeneration, material and intellectual, which goal the present administration is striving to reach."

Dr. Sanavria said that all that he had seen and heard on this occasion had given him the hope that the Government would meet with the requisite amount of co-operation to carry into execution the proposal to found an Institution of Fine Arts, and he would use this opportunity to ask from all present a formal promise to co-operate frankly and energetically for the realization of this thought, which promised so many benefits to Venezuela.

These words were most warmly received and crowned the general rejoicing, as the earnestness of the minister gave all the weight of a promise.

The host then concluded the banquet with a few words, expressive of the satisfaction he should experience by their sending to Europe two or three of the young artists present, that they might perfect themselves in the schools of the Old World, and return able to add lustre and honour to their country.

List of those present at the Banquet.

Antonio L. Guzman, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Martin J. Sanavria, Minister of Public Works.

Dr. Jesus María Paul, Governor of the Federal District.

Dr. Diego Bautista Bárrios, Secretary of the Minister of Foreign Relations.

Dr. Santiago Terrero Atienza, Secretary of the Minister of Public Works.

General Pedro Toledo Bermúdez, Secretary of the Governor of the Federal District.

General Juan Francisco Perez, President of the State of Bolivar.

Dr. Alejandro Ibarra, Rector of the University of Carácas.

Dr. A. Ernst, President of the Society of Physical Science.

Fausto Teodoro de Aldrey,
Rafael Hernández Gutierrez, } Representatives of the Press.

Heraclio M. de la Guardia (the Poet-Laureate of Venezuela).

Robert P. Syers.

General Leopoldo Terrero.

Ledo. Eduardo Calcaño.

Luis Rigail.

Martin Tovar y Tovar,	artist.
Miguel Navarro y Cañizares,	do.
Manuel Cruz,	do.
J. Garcia Beltran,	do.
Manuel Otero,	do.
Dr. José Manuel Maucó,	do.
Ramon Bolet,	do.
Gerónimo Martínez,	do.
Francisco Davegno,	do.
José Antonio Sálas,	do.
General Nicanor Bolet Peraza,	do.
H. Lisboa,	do.
General Andres A. Level,	do.
Manuel A. Gonzalez (sculptor),	do.
Luciano Urdaneta,	do.
General Ramon de la Plaza,	do.
Eduardo Blanco,	do.
Arístides Estéves,	do.
Diego Casañas Burguillos,	do.
Próspero Rey,	do.

Andres Socarrás, artist.
Carlos Alberto Izquierdo, do.
Anton Goering, C.M.Z.S., do.
I. Meseron y Aranda, proprietor of the Café del Avila.

POEM BY SEÑOR HERACLIO M. DE LA GUARDIA, READ BY SEÑOR E. CALCAÑO AFTER THE BANQUET.

(*Dedicated to Señor Spence.*)

Cuando el genio de América su frente
Corone con los lauros de la gloria
Y en el campo del Arte, floreciente
Digno sea su nombre de la historia,
Al recuerdo lejano del presente
De esta fiesta del alma hará memoria.
Y habiá de bendecir, en su fortuna
Al que alentó sus pasos en la cuna

Ser hombres, combatir, vencer al cabo
Y alzar libres la frente al firmamento
Es ser un pueblo independiente y bravo,
De noble instinto y varonil aliento ;
Mas no se rompe el yugo del esclavo
Ni se cumple de Dios el pensamiento
Si el Arte al fin con su poder fecundo
No le da nombre, y lo pregona al mundo.

Por eso Venezuela agradecida
Al elevado fin que le señalas
Al entrar del espíritu en la vida
Viste feliz sus más valiosas galas,
Crespúsculos de aurora no sabida,
Débil ensayo de atrevidas alas
Que por falta de espacio, luz y aire
No dejan el vergel del patrio Guaire.

Mas hoi que en torno la discordia cesa
Y tranquilo el espíritu, se lanza
Tras de más noble, generosa empresa
A la voz de la paz y la esperanza,
Digno se hará de la imïnortal promesa
Que de su cuna el Arte á dar alcanza ;
Y tu fecundo afecto será un dia
Orgullo y gloria de la patria mia.

28 *de Julio.*

M.

DECREE CONSTITUTING THE ISLANDS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA INTO A TERRITORY.

(*Translated from La Opinion Nacional, 23d August* 1871.)

ANTONIO GUZMAN BLANCO,
Provisional President of the Republic, &c. &c.

BY virtue of the powers intrusted to me by the Congress of Plenipotentiaries of the States for the promotion of the public good, and for considering—

1. That according to the 22d section of Article 43, it belongs to the Federal Power to establish, under the title of territories, special rules for the temporary government of regions either uninhabited or inhabited by uncivilized natives, making such territories to be dependent directly upon the Executive of the Union.

2. That the opportunity has now come of improving the administration of the islands hereafter named.

It is decreed,—

Art. I. There shall be a territory called "Colon," subject to a special rule, and dependent upon the Federal Executive, and including the following islands :—

1. The island of the bay of La Esmeralda.

2. The group of Los Frailes, nine miles to the north-east of Margarita.

3. The islet La Sola, twelve miles to the north-east of the largest of the Los Frailes.

4. The group of Los Hermanos, forty miles to the north of the west portion of Margarita.

5. The islands of Venados, Caraca del Este, Caraca del Oeste, Picudas, Chimanas, Borrachas, and also the islets between Cumaná and Barcelona.

6. The Arapos islands, half a mile to the west-north-west of the Punta de la Cruz.

7. The isle of Monos and the islets of the bay of Pertigalete.

8. The islets of Piritu, twelve miles to the west of the mouth of the river Neveri, and three and half from the mainland.

9. The islet Farallon or Centinela off Cabo Codera.

10. The islet of Ocumare, at the north-east of the bay of the same name.

11. The islands and islets situated from Turiamo to the rocks of San Juan inclusive.

12. The island and rocks of Orchila, seventy-two miles to the north of Cabo Codera.

13. The group of Los Roques, twenty-two miles to the west of Orchila.

14. The two groups of Aves, thirty miles to the west of Los Roques.

15. The group of Los Monges, from nineteen to thirty miles to the north, 75° east from the Cabo de Chichivacoa.

Art. II. The territory of "Colon" shall be under the authority of a civil and military Governor, according to separate decrees to be dictated for the political and military government of the territory.

Art. III. There shall be put at the disposition of the Governor one of the ships of war of the nation, in order that he may examine the islands, select that which may be best adapted for his residence, and dictate provisionally what he may think necessary, giving account of all to the Federal Executive.

Art. IV. With the Governor there shall be sent a scientific commission, charged to make the investigations indicated by the Minister of Public Works.

Art. V. The Governor shall present to the national Executive a circumstantial report of the islands, according to the observations which shall have been made, and shall propose all the regulations and other dispositions which he shall think fit for the organization and government of the territory of "Colon."

Art. VI. The salary and expenses of the Governor shall be fixed by a separate resolution—the same to be paid by the Public Treasury.

Art. VII. The Minister of Public Works is charged with the execution of the present decree.

Given, under my hand, and countersigned by the Minister of Public Works at Carácas, August 22, 1871—8th and 13th.

(Signed) A. GUZMAN BLANCO.

Countersigned by the Minister of Public Works.

(Signed) MARTIN J. SANAVRIA.

A true copy.

(Signed) S. TERRERO ATIENZA,
Secretary of the Minister of Public Works.

N.

GOVERNMENT CONCESSIONS FOR THE WORKING OF THE COAL MINES OF THE NARICUAL, STATE OF NUEVA BARCELONA, VENEZUELA.

(*Translation by* MR. WM. A. ANDRAL.)

OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS,
CARÁCAS, *October* 5, 1871.

Decree.

WHEREAS Mr. James M. Spence has solicited from the Government the grant of certain franchises for the projected working of some coal mines, the property of Señora Clara Marrero de Monágas, and situated in the parish of Aragüita in the State of Barcelona, the Government, desirous to promote the progress of the country, decrees:

1st. Vessels arriving at Barcelona loaded either entirely or at least half with machinery, tools, and instruments for the working of the coal mines, and the transport of the coals to the port, shall pay no tonnage dues.

2d. The articles specified in the foregoing numbers shall be free of import duty.

3d. In order that the articles mentioned in Nos. 1 and 2 may enjoy said franchise, they shall be stamped in the manufactory with a mark of the mining company, a facsimile of which shall be deposited in the office of this ministry and in that of the Custom-House of Barcelona.

4th. The articles imported for the quarrying and transporting of the mineral to the harbour shall be employed exclusively in the works, and it shall not be allowed to offer them for sale, nor employ them for other purposes. All the objects which should be employed in a manner different from the one stated shall forfeit the

franchise of free importation, and likewise all those of the same description which afterwards might be imported.

5th. The mining company shall give security to the Custom House for the amount of duty on the articles imported for the working of the mines, as if they were not free of duty, and whenever an importation is made an authenticated copy of the invoice is to be presented, in order that the Government may declare that the imported articles belong to those included in the foregoing numbers, and give orders to cancel the security.

6th. Sailing vessels and steamers arriving in ballast for coal, and actually loading, shall not pay any tonnage dues either on their arrival or on their departure.

7th. Steamers touching at the port in order to take in coal shall not pay any tonnage dues either on their arrival or on their departure although they be loaded, provided no goods are landed.

8th. By the fact of making use of these concessions the company shall be obliged to sell to the Government the coal required for the use of the navy at 5 per cent. under the current market price.

9th. These concessions shall be forfeited if the working of the mines is not begun within a period of twenty months from this date.

11th. The foregoing concessions in no case whatever shall become the subject of international claims.

Be this communicated to the interested party.

(Signed) MARTIN J. SANAVRIA.
For the President.

(For right copy.)

(Signed) SANTIAGO TERRERO ATIENZA,
Secretary of the Minister of Public Works.

O.

CONCESSION OF THE ISLANDS OF VENEZUELA FOR THE EXTRACTION OF MINERAL PHOSPHATES.

Translation by Señor Rafael Seijas.

MARTIN J. SANAVRIA, the Minister of Public Works of the United States of Venezuela, being specially authorized by the Provisional President of the Republic on the one part, and James M. Spence, a British subject, on the other, has concluded the following contract :—

Article 1.

The Venezuelan Government grants to James M. Spence, and his lawful successors or partners, permission to ship, to the exclusion of any other enterprise, whether individual or joint, from the Roques Islands, being a part of the territory of Colon, the phosphatic mineral in its natural state which may exist thereon.

Article 2.

This permit to last twenty-one years from this date.

Article 3.

The Venezuelan Government grants likewise to James M. Spence, his partners or successors, permission to ship for the same time phosphatic mineral from the Orchila island ; but this grant does not exclude other enterprises which may obtain from the Government a similar permit.

Article 4.

James M. Spence engages to pay during the first three years of this contract, to the Venezuelan Government, a hundred and twelve Venezuelan cents for each ton of 2240 pounds in weight, of phosphatic mineral in its natural state, which he may ship from the abovenamed islands. The cost of working, carriage, and maritime transport, or any other expense connected therewith, to be borne by the said James M. Spence.

Article 5.

At the end of the first three years, and from that time forward (every three years), the Venezuelan Government and James M. Spence shall appoint each an arbitrator, and the persons so appointed shall select an umpire in order that they, on inspection of the then ruling prices of phosphates, may fix the value of each ton of the mineral for the three years ensuing, in doing which they shall be governed by the proportion which the then ruling prices bear to the average prices maintained during the previous three years of this contract, so that the value of said mineral in its natural state will rise or decrease according to the like ratio of its rising or decreasing in its markets. For the purposes of this stipulation the prices of phosphates in England is hereby fixed at one shilling and one penny and a half per unit of phosphate of lime which the mineral may contain.

Article 6.

On account of said working, James M. Spence shall advance a sum of Eight thousand dollars (*Venezolanos*), to be paid into the national treasury on this contract being signed, either in cash or in a bill of exchange upon England.

Article 7.

The extraction of Guano from the Venezuelan Islands having been contracted for with an American company, and mineral phosphate being quite different from guano, James M. Spence concurs with the Venezuelan Government that the rights of the above company are not affected by the extraction of phosphates,—the subject matter of this contract.

Article 8.

The vessels which the enterprise may send to the Los Roques Islands or to Orchila when transporting solely materials for the construction of buildings, wharves, and other works of the enterprise, as well as the instruments, implements, and machinery necessary to the working referred to in this contract, shall pay no duty on any account; the national officers on the island shall require only a statement of the things imported.

Article 9.

On the vessels of the enterprise bringing from abroad victuals and provisions for its consumption, either on the Roques Islands or

on Orchila, the master of the vessel or the manager of the enterprise on said islands, shall exhibit to the government officer there for the time being the manifest of the cargo; and as soon as the victuals or provisions are examined by him, he shall express at the bottom of the manifest the correctness thereof, and shall transmit it to the Custom House at La Guayra that it may liquidate the import duties, and collect from the agents to be established by James M. Spence, either at La Guayra or Carácas, the duties accrued according to the Venezuelan laws.

Article 10.

The vessels of the enterprise going to the aforesaid islands to take cargoes of the mineral shall not be liable to any port dues.

Article 11.

The masters of the vessels referred to in the preceding article shall make a manifest in writing, and signed, wherein they shall specify the name of the vessel, her flag, and the number approximately of the tons of phosphatic mineral which they may have on board. Such a manifest in original shall be received by the national officer on the respective island, and by him sent to the Custom House at La Guayra on the first fitting opportunity.

Article 12.

James M. Spence engages to have the amount of the weight of the cargo mineral verified at the port of her destination, with the intervention of the fiscal authority there, and of the Consul of the Republic, if there be one on the spot. This authenticated act shall be forwarded by James M. Spence or his agents to the Custom House at La Guayra, by the first English packet, after the arrival of the vessel at the port of destination.

Article 13.

On receiving the manifest spoken of in the 12th Article, the Custom House at La Guayra shall proceed immediately to liquidate the credit of the nation arising out of the value of the cargo of phosphatic mineral, bearing in mind the prices established and to be established agreeably to this contract. The agent or agents to be appointed by James M. Spence at La Guayra or at Carácas shall pay in cash the amount of such a liquidation as soon as the advance referred to in Article the 6th is discounted.

Article 14.

The Custom House at La Guayra shall every six months form another liquidation of the credit accruing to the nation out of the value of the cargoes of mineral, calculated at the rates fixed and to be fixed as per this contract; and on inspection of the authenticated acts referred to in the 12th Article, either party shall pay to the other in cash any balance which may result from a comparison between such a liquidation and the manifests relating to the same cargoes.

Article 15.

James M. Spence engages to present to the Minister of Public Works, every six months, a sworn statement of the cargoes of phosphatic mineral, with specifications of the names of the vessels, their tonnage, flag, names of the masters, cargoes of the mineral in weight, and foreign port in which the cargoes have been landed.

Article 16.

The Venezuelan Government shall be at liberty to take such other measures as it may deem indispensable to secure the fiscal interests on Los Roques islands and Orchila; therefore, though the vessels of the enterprise are not bound to proceed to La Guayra, or any other port on the mainland for clearance, provided they engage in the traffic permitted under the contract, if any of these vessels become guilty of smuggling she shall be sent to La Guayra for trial according to the laws of the republic.

Article 17.

In the event of the Venezuelan Government being willing to contract with any other person or company for the working of the phosphatic mineral on any of the other islands belonging to the republic, it shall make known either to James M. Spence, or his successors or partners, or his agents or attorneys at Carácas or La Guayra, all the conditions of the intended bargain, and should any of the same offer, within fifty days' time, to comply with all those conditions, they shall be preferred and the Government shall be bound to conclude the respective contract.

Article 18.

At the expiration of this contract the buildings and works of an immovable nature shall become the property of the nation.

Article 19.

Whatever doubts and controversies may arise shall be decided by the courts and under the laws of the republic, nor shall they, in any case and on any account whatsoever, be made matter of international claims.

Done in duplicate to one intent alone at Carácas, on the twentieth of July One thousand eight hundred and seventy-two.

(Signed) MARTIN J. SANAVRIA.
(Signed) JAMES M. SPENCE.

P.

LIST OF PUBLIC WORKS IN PROGRESS IN VENEZUELA, DECEMBER 1873.

(*Fortnightly Review.*)*

(*La Opinion Nacional*, 8th December 1873.)

WE have the greatest pleasure in announcing to our foreign readers, that the Republic is enjoying perfect peace, liberty and legality.

To form a correct idea of the colossal proportions in which progress is increasing throughout the country, we publish a *resumé* of the principal Works which are being carried out with the greatest activity.

The Capitol.—A handsome massive building of the Doric order, erected in 90 days, for the Legislative Body to celebrate its session; this is the largest building in Caracas.

The Water-Works and Aqueduct Gazman Blanco.—Supplies Caracas with water, and is 45,000 metres in length.

Promenade Guzman Blanco..—The barren hill formerly called the Calvary has been turned into a most beautiful promenade, offering a magnificent and extensive panorama. Within a few years the trees, and shrubbery, now planted, will form an agreeable walk, equal to any to be found in Europe.

The Aqueduct of Coro.—These Water-Works were constructed during the administration of Marshall J. C. Falcon, but require some important repairs both as regards the dam and in the drains. These repairs having been granted, are being carried out with rapidity.

Custom-house of la Vela.—This is the finest building in the State of Falcon.—General Guzmon Blanco ordered its construction and it was concluded to celebrate the 28th of October last.

The alameda of Maiquetia, having been formeerly awfully neglected, Government appointed a committee intrusted with its

* Verbatim.

care and preservation, so that this *promenade* is at present in a flourishing state.

The alameda of La Guaira which was also much neglected, has been taken in hand by Government, and considerably improved and supplied with numerous lamps.

The Alameda of Puerto Cabello, has been kept in good order, with the funds provided by the Board of public works for its preservation and amelioration.

The Streets of Carácas, have almost all been repaved, laying slabs to the largest portion of the blocks which had none.

The Streets of Valencia,—A considerable sum of money has been laid out in their repair.

The Streets of Puerto Cabello. In this town streets have been made where none existed, having to contend with the greatest difficulties.

The Streets of the Valle.—The Valle is a town in the vicinity of Caracas, to which many families resort for change of air, its streets not having been repaired for long, were in a deplorable state, the principal ones have now been repaired, by which this pretty little town, which is becoming notorious for its baths, has been much improved.

The northern mule-road, which unites Caracas to La Guaira, crossing the Cordillera, was constructed by the Spaniards, required important repairs, which have been carried into effect, and there are constantly numerous gangs of labourers keeping it in repair.

The canal of the Guárico, is intended to bring the waters of the River Guarico to the State "Guzman Blanco." A competent Engineer is making the necessary survey for this important work.

Bringing the waters of the River San Juan to the town of Parapara.—The necessary survey for this purpose is also being made, and the needful funds have been applied to carry out this project.

Water for the State "Bruzual."—One of the districts of Carácas bears the name of the hero of Puerto Cabello. This popolation demanded of the Government the necessary water-pipes to bring the water, which were brought out,. however, from neglect little or nothing has been done, we are informed, therefore, that the Government will undertake this enterprise.

The High-road of "Agua Caliente," which unites Valencia with Puerto Cabello.—The rains made this road intransitable: large sums have been laid out on its repairs, which are nearly terminated.

High-road from Valencia to San Cárlos.—San Cárlos is the

capital of the State of "Cojedes" and the key to the Llanos. To unite this State to Valencia has been a happy thought; the works are proceeding with activity and in two months will be concluded.

The High-road from Puerto Cabello to San Felipe.—The State of Yaraqui is one of the most productive of the Republic, but it had to contend with the want of Roads connecting it with the sea-coast: this is the object of the present Road, where it is not only necessary to struggle with the difficulties of the formation of the Country, but also with the unwholesomeness of the climate, at a certain spot on the Coast. All difficulties have however been conquered, and the two towns will soon be united, as the works are proceeding at the same time from Puerto Cabello to San Felipe, and vice-versa.

The High-road from Carácas to Petare.—A sum of money is laid out monthly in preserving and improving this road, a Bridge which was much needed, has been lately built.

High-road from Petare to Mariches.—This branch road so much required for the transport of the produce of the Crops, which are so abundant on the high-lands of the State of "Bolivar."

The Western-road, unites Carácas to La Victoria.—A Board has the management of this Road, and many hands are daily employed, preserving and improving it.

The Northern High-road, connects la Guaira with Carácas.—The constant traffic of this road, and the immense defects of its original construction, which took place in the time the Tory's were in power, —renders it necessary to spend considerable sums on its constant repair.

The High-road to Charayave, which unites Carácas with the valleys of the Tuy.—It is long since this road has been undertaken without obtaining any satisfactory results. The Illustrius American, Guzman Blanco, decided that it should be carried out, and the road was made, the present works only tend to improve a part that was badly layed out in the time of the Tory government.

The High-road from Charayave to Cua.—This is an important branch-road which unites two towns and is already concluded.

The High-road from Cua to Ocumare, was commenced and terminated under the present Administration.

The High-road from Charallave to Santa Lucia.—The works on this branch-road continue, with activity and it will not be long before they are concluded.

The High-road to Paracotos, was only commenced a few days since.

The High-road from Cua to the "Guarico."—This is a new line which opens the traffic of the high-lands with the Llanos, and which will shortly change the situation of the rich Valley of the Tuy, the necessary survey having been made, these works have already commenced.

The High-road from Ciudad de Cura to Calabozo, places the States of Guzman Blanco, Guárico, and Apure in communication, this road is already far advanced, having overcome the principal difficulties.

The High-road from Ocumare to the Llanos, via Caramacate. This road also unites the Valleys of the Tuy with the Llanos, and will produce immense advantages, these works have commenced.

The High-road Guzman Blanco, starts from the city of Barcelona and ends at Soledad, opposite Ciudad Bolivar, the capital of the State of Guayana. This road progresses rapidly, and General Guzman Blanco expects that it will be concluded in a few months.

The High-road from Merida to the lake of Máracaibo. The States of the Cordillera having no *débouché;* its commerce suffers considerably from the want of so important a road, which is already begun.

The High-road of Guama.—General Guzman Blanco is determined that this road, which has been commenced, since time immemorial, shall speedily be terminated, not only on accoun tof the advantages it will afford to the States of the Cordillera, but that it will in a great measure simplify the question of limits with Columbia.

The High-road from Maturin to Caño Colorado.—Caño Colorado is the port where goods proceeding to Maturin are landed; there they are transshipped to small crafts which ascend the River Guarapiche with great difficulty and expense. When once this road is open these difficultiee will cease, it will be concluded befors march.

The High-road from la Guaira to Maiquetia.—This short road has been intransitable until lately, since when it has been perfectioned, as well as the Street of Maquetia, through which it passes.

The High-road of La Guaira to Macuto, has been totally reformed, and remains perfect.

The Census. This is the first that has been thoroughly carried out in the Republic, and is of itself a Work of sufficient importance to raise the pride of Government. It was carried into effect on the 6th 7th and 8th of November.

The Exhibition of Vienna. For the first time the products of Venezuela have been worthily represented abroad.—23 prizes fell to its lot in the distribution.

The waters of the River Apure to form one single branch. The engineer, who went to Paris for the purpose of procuring the necessary machinery for this work, has just returned, so that in a short time it will be in operation.

The Rail-road from Caracas to the Sea.—The Survey and Sections are being concluded, and in January the inauguration of the works will take place.

The Lazaretto of Caracas.—This important work, which was brought to a stand for a few days, from the want of materials, has again commenced.

Immigration.—Government will commence to occupy itself with this important matter, which is being studied by special commissions, who are to inform the Executive, concerning the means to be adopted.

Public Slaughter-house of Caracas, this building will be terminated within two months.

Furniture for the Federal palace, has been ordered from Europe, (of an appropriate kind.)

The Plaza Bolívar, is the general center of all that is beautifull and youthful, thanks to the warm interest the Government has taken in it.

The Bridge Guzman Blanco, unites the parishes of the Cathedral and Candelaria in this City, and is concluded.

The Bridge of Curamichate, embellishes the Southern entrance of Caracas, it is finished.

The Bridge of Caño Amarillo, at the entrance of Guzman Blanco promenade, is finished.

The Temple of San Felipe.—Government has appropriated one hundred thousand Venezuelans for this building, the works proceed with activity.

The Temples of Barbacoas, Piritu, Clarines, Barcelona, Curataquiche, Pozuelos, San Diego, Aragüita, and San Bernardino, have been assisted with different sums of money to be invested in the repairs they require.

The Temples of Caracas have been endowed with rich and adequate ornaments.

The Masonic Temple.—Government has decreed the finishing of this extensive building, and the Committee in charge is provided with the necessary funds.

Front elevation of the University.—This is a handsome gothic monument, and the only one of this style in the country. It may be said that it is finished, as what remains to be done is trifling.

The Port Guzman Blanco.—In the State of Barcelona, requires expensive works, as it is necessary to dredge the Bay, build a Coustom-house, a warf and a Road to unite it with Barcelona. The whole of these works are to be finished in march.

The Statue of the Libertador, is being cast in Europe, is already paid for, and will be inaugurated next year.

Bridge over the River of Manzanares.—The town of Cumana is divided by this River, therefore its importance will be easily understood, it is to be concluded in January.

Port Sucre, Cumana.—Requires a Custom-house, a warf, a Light-house, and a Buoy to be fixed at the point of Araya, also to repair the road which unites it with the town. These works are to be concluded by April.

The Portraits of the prominent Men of the war of Independance, and those of the Presidents of Venezuela, have been contracted for, and will be executed in Paris by a Venezuelean artist, who will deliver them up in the course of next year.

Works to be executed in the district of Rivero, State of Cumana.—To canalize the River Carinicuao, build a Bridge across the River, lay out a Road from the Gulf to Caripe, and the irrigation of the lands bordering the River. These works have been commenced.

The aqueduct of Guanare, has been ordered to be constructed, and the Committee intrusted with the work, has the funds necessary.

The Aqueduct of Barquesimeto.—The engineer intrusted with this work has already been dispatched.

Coal Mines of Barcelona.—For the necessary workings of these mines an engineer has been sent for from London, who is to make the surveys.

School of sculpture.—The opening of this establishment having been decreed, it has already been effected.

The acueduct of Valencia having been ordered to be constructed by Government, must already be commenced.

The alameda of San Juan in Caracas, an especial committee has been appointed to lay out and enclose it.

The Barracks of San Carlos, the important repairs ordered have been executed.

Territory of Amazones.—An engineer will proceed to this country to explore it as far as necessary, as former governments have at-

tended but little to this point, and a Committee of public works has been named to construct the public buildings and roads that may be required.

Lazaretto of Cumaná.—This institution possesses the needful funds for its support and amelioration.

Public Works at Carúpano.—The repairs of the Warf, the public buildings and the light-house, have been ordered, and by this time will have been concluded.

Irrigation from the River Manzanares, which was decreed by the President.—The necessary surveys have been made, and the works will shortly be inaugurated.

Road from Cumaná to Maturin.—Last month this work was commenced, it is a costly enterprise, and will require time.

Navigation of the "Uribante" and High-road from Vivas to San Cristóbal.—These two enterprises will open the communications with the States of the Cordillera, Zamora, Apure, and Guayana, and will give new life to the commerce of these districts, both are proceeding with rapidity.

High-road from Coro of Barquisimeto.—This road has been layed out and already begun.

Plaza "Guzman Blanco" in Valencia.—Government has granted the payment of the railings and the column they are to enclose, which have been ordered abroad.

Road from Cumaná to Urica.—The survey is being made to lay out this line.

High-road from Puerto de Tablas to Nueva Providencia.—This road which has been at a stand for some time past, has been taken in hand by the Government, and supplied with funds for its conclusion, which will be in three months.

Pontoon-floating light-house on the Orinoco.—The vessel to be used for this purpose is being prepared, and in January it will be fixed at its station.

Works of the State of Zamora.—Government has decreed the following:

The Dredging of the River Santo Domingo, and clearing it of several obstacles which impede its navigation.

Canalizing of the River Canaguá, and bringing all its waters to the branch which passes through "Delgadito" dike.

The repairs of the house which is to serve as the national College of Barinas.

The construction of a Bridge over the River Santo Domingo, at

the *sortie* of the town; and laying out the road from Barinas to Barinitas, so as to make it a good high-road.

It can be easily understood that with all the foregoing enterprises the resources of the Republic are daily increasing, and accounts for the warm support and enthousiasm with which, all classes of the people of Venezuela, second the Presidents propositions of regeneration, causing the great prestige he enjoys.

We conclude our present review by informing our foreign readers, that the eminent democrat, Hector F. Varela, after having been the object of the most enthusiast demostrations, admiration and esteem on his arrival, both in this capital and La Guaira,—in the midst of the feasts to the Liberator,—has since taken a trip through the States Guzman Blanco, and Carabobo, in which he was received with splendid triumphs, which prove, how well the american people kuow how to appreciate, all this illustrious orator of Geneva has done, for the honour of the american cause, both proving his eloquence in the tribune, and in the columns of *El Americano.*

He is once more in our capital, having returned from his triumphant excursion, and this enlightened city continues offering him proofs of its gratitude, and its fraternal affection.

Q.

SELECT LIST OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, MAPS, AND MANUSCRIPTS RELATING TO VENEZUELA.

1. *Acosta.* Cuestion de Retracto Convencional. Número extraordinario de "El Toro." Por Cecilio Acosta. Carácas, 1860. 4to, pp. 14.
2. *Acosta.* Doctrina Federal y Leys secundarias. Por Cecilio Acosta. Carácas, 1869. 8vo, pp. 108.

2*a*. *Acosta, F. de P.* See Rójas, and Vargasia.

3. *Aecio.* Un Drama en Carácas, Novela de Costumbres, por Aecio [seudónimo]. Puerto-Cabello. 8vo, pp. li. 322.
4. *Agricultor Venezolano.* See Díaz.

4*a*. *Aguirre, Lope de.* See Simon, and Southey.

5. *Aldrey.* Cuestion de Derecho público internacional de Venezuela (Sobre derechos y deberes de los estranjeros residentes y transeuntes en Venezuela). Fausto Theodoro de Aldrey. Carácas, 1865. 8vo, pp. 60.

5*a*. *Agriculture.* See Cafe, Codazzi, Colombia, Cultivo, Diaz, Engel, Ernst, Larrazábal, and Madriz.

6. *Alfonzo.* La revolucion de 1867 á 1868, por Luis Gerónimo Alfonzo. Carácas, 1868. 8vo, pp. 32.
7. *Almanaque.* Almanaque portátil para el año de 1869 y guia de la Ciudad de Carácas. Carácas, 1868. 8vo, pp. 67.
8. *Almanaque.* Almanaque para todos de Rójas Hermanos, para el año de 1872. Carácas. 12mo, pp. 128.
9. *Alpine Journal.* The Pico de Naiguatá, Venezuela (August 1872). Account of its first ascent (November 1872).
10. *Appun.* Unter den Tropen. Wanderungen durch Venezuela, am Orinoco, durch Britisch Guyana und am Amazonenstrome in den Jahren 1849–1868. Von Carl Ferdinand Appun. Erster Band : Venezuela. Jena, 1871. 8vo, pl.
11. *Apure.* Diario histórico de la Campaña de Apure en 1837. Carácas, 1837. 8vo, pp. 50.
12. *Arancel.* Arancel de Derechos de Importacion arreglado al sistema metrico decimal. Edicion oficial. Carácas, 1870. 8vo, pp. 93.
13. *Arrowsmith.* West Indies (Map). By J. Arrowsmith. London, 1858.

13*a*. *Atlas.* See Codazzi.

14. *Aveledo.* Observaciones meteorológicas en Carácas, año de 1868. Leido en la Sociedad de Ciencias físicas y naturales de Carácas, en la sesion del 1 de Febrero de 1869, por Agustin Aveledo. 8vo, pp. 4.

14*a*. *Aveledo.* See Vargasia.

15. *Arvelo.* Poesias del Venezolano R. Arvelo. Carácas, 1867. 8vo, pp. 104.

16. *Ateneo (el).* Periodico quincenal de ciencias literatura y artes. Tomo. I. Carácas, 1854. 4to, pp. 124.

16*a*. *Austria.* See Montilla.

17. *Austria.* Un Recuerdo de Bolivar, por José Austria. Carácas, 1835. 8vo, pp. 63.

17*a*. *Austria.* Bosquejo de la Historia militar de Venezuela en la Guerra de su Independencia. Por Colonel José de Austria. Tomo I. (complete). Carácas, 1855. 8vo, pp. 390.

17*b*. *Aves.* See Briceño.

18. *Avila.* Biografia del Doctor José Cecilio Ávila, por Juan Vicente Gonzalez. Carácas, 1858. 8vo, pp. 67. Portrait.

18*a*. *Banco de Venezuela.* See Documentos.

19. *Baralt y Diaz.* Resúmen de la Historia de Venezuela desde el descubrimiento, hasta el año 1797, por Rafael María Baralt. Ha cooperado à el en la parte relativa á los guerras de la conquista de la Costa Firme el Señor Ramon Diaz. Paris, 1841. 8vo, pp. 448. Portraits.

20. *Baralt y Diaz.* Resúmen de la Historia de Venezuela desde el año de 1797, hasta el de 1830, por Rafael María Baralt y Ramon Diaz. Paris, 1841. 8vo, 2 vols. Portraits.

21. *Baralt y Urbaneja.* Catecismo de la historia de Venezuela, desde el descubrimiento de su terretorio in 1498, hasta su emancipacion politica de la monarquia española en 1811. Compuesto por Rafael M. Baralt y Manuel M. Urbaneja. Carácas, 1865. 18mo, pp. 94.

21*a*. "*Barima.*" Manifiesto justificativo de la conducta del Gobierno en esta cuestion. Por Diego Braulio Bárrios y Mariano Briceño. Carácas, 1841. 8vo, pp. 23.

22. *Baring Bros.* See Venezuelan Loan.

23. *Bárrios.* See "Barima."

24. *Becerra.* El general José Tadeo Monágas. Apuntes biográficos. Documentos políticos. Funerales. Honores oficiales. Por Ricardo Becerra. Edicion oficial. Carácas, 1868. 4to, pp. xl. 46.

25. *Bello, Andres.* Coleccion de Poesias originales, con apuntes biográficos, por J. M. Torres Caicedo. Carácas, 1870. 12mo, pp. 302. Portrait.

26. *Bello, Andres,* Venezolano, Silva Americana. La Agricultura de la Zona torrida. Carácas, 1863. 16mo, pp. 15.

27. *Benites.* Princípios para la Materia Médica del pais en forma

de diccionario, por J. María Benites. Carácas, 1844. 8vo, pp. 80.

27*a*. *Birds.* See Sclater.

28. *Blanco, G.* Informe sobre la epidemia reinante presentado al Poder Ejecutivo, por Dr. Gerónimo Blanco. Carácas, 1853. 8vo, pp. 19.

29. *Blanco, A. G.* Exposicion que dirijè el General Guzman Blanco, al Congreso de Plenipotenciarios de los Estados. Carácas, 1870. 8vo, pp. 16.

30. *Blanco, A. G.* See Codigo, Catalogo, and Guzman Blanco.

30*a*. *Blanco, M.* See Yangues.

30*b*. *Bohn.* See Humboldt.

30*c*. *Bolet, R.* See Rothe, and Terrero.

31. *Bolet, N.* Memoria sobre los efectos de las píldoras tocológicas en la curacion de los abortos. Por Dr. Nicanor Bolet. Carácas, 1867. 8vo, pp. 20. With a lithograph plate.

32. *Bolet, N.* La Salud de la Mujer conservada, por las píldoras tocológicas del Dr. Nicanor Bolet. Carácas, 1871. 8vo, pp. 24.

33. *Bolet Peraza.* A Falta de Pan, buenos son Tortas. Comedia de costumbres, en un acto, original. Por Nicanor Bolet Peraza. Carácas, 1873. 8vo, pp. 21.

34. *Bolet Peraza.* See Spence.

35. *Bolet, H.* Museo Venezolano. Tomo I. Bolet Hermanos editores. Carácas, 1866. 4to. This excellent periodical terminated at the 24th number.

36. *Bolivar.* Campaña del Peru, por el Ejercito Unido Libertador, á las órdenes del inmortal Bolivar en los años de 1823-24-25, con [3] mapas, por Manuel Antonio Lopez. Carácas, 1843. 8vo, pp. 86.

37. *Bolivar.* Correspondencia General del Libertador Simon Bolivar enriquecida con la insercion de los manifiestos, mensages, exposiciones, proclamas, &c. &c., publicados por el heroe Colombiano desde 1810, hasta 1830. Precede á esta coléccion interesante la Vida de Bolivar. New York, 1865. 8vo. 2 vols. Portrait and facsimile. These two vols. contain only the life of Dr. Felipe Larrazábal.

38. *Bolivar.* Efeméridas Colombianos sobre Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, que formaron en uno tiempo una sola república. Paris, 1870. 8vo, pp. 140. There is a second title as follows:—Raciocinios del Libertador Simon Bolivar sobre Religion, Politica, Educacion, y Filosofia, ó Diarió de Bucaramanga, por La Croix. Paris, 1869.

39. *Bolivar.* Los Funerales y la Apoteosis de Bolivar. Producciones escojidas del Señor Antonio L. Guzman. 7a edicion en Carácas el 28 de Octubre de 1872. 8vo, pp. 84. Portrait.

40. *Bolivar.* Proclamas del Libertador Simon Bolivar. Carácas, 1842. 8vo, pp. [vi.] 64.

41. *Bolivar.* La Ultima Enfermedad, los ultimos momentos y los funerales de Simon Bolivar, Libertador de Colombia y de Peru, por su médico de Cabacera el Dr. A. P. Reverend. Paris, 1866. 8vo, pp. 64. Portrait and view of S. Pedro Alejandrino.
42. *Bolivar and Washington.* See Urdaneta.
42*a*. *Bolivar.* See Austria, Guzman, and Syers.
42*b*. *Bollaert.* See Simon.
43. *Bonpland, A.* See Ernst, and Humboldt.
43*a*. *Bourgoin.* See Vargasia.
44. *Bovadilla.* Viaje que hizo Don Francisco Fernández de Bovadilla desde la Guayana al Alto Orinoco. Original y firmado. MS. In the collection of the author.
44*a*. *Brasil.* See Briceño, Documentos, and Michelena.
45. *Briceño.* Memoria justificativa de la conducta del Gobierno de Venezuela en la question Isla de Aves, presentada al Exemo. Señor Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos. Por el Enviado Estraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Venezuela, Dr. Mariano Briceño. Carácas, 1858. 4to, pp. 28.
46. *Briceño.* Límites del Brasil con Venezuela, Nueva Granada, Ecuador, y Peru. Por Mariano de Briceño. Carácas, 1854. 12mo, pp. 36.
47. *Briceño.* See "Barima."
47*a*. *Cacáo.* See Café.
48. *Café.* Memoria de los abonos, cultivo y beneficios que necesitan los diversos valles de la provincia de Carácas para la plantacion de Café. Instruccion para el gobierno de las haciendas de Cacáo. Carácas, 1833. 4to, pp. 90. Plate.
48*a*. *Café.* See Madriz, and Schœffer.
49. *Caicedo.* See Bello.
50. *Calcaño.* El Leñador. Legenda Americana. Por José Antonio Calcaño. Carácas, 1857. 8vo. pp. 40.
51. *Calendario.* Calendario Manual y Guia universal de Forasteros en Venezuela, para el año de 1810. Carácas en la imprenta de Gallagher y Lamb. 8vo, pp. 64. This rare work is one of the oldest specimens of Venezuelan printing.
51*a*. *Caña Dulce.* See Engel.
52. *Carácas.* See Constituciones, Contestacion, Diaz, Ernst, Larrazábal, Manuscript, and Revenga.
53. *Carácas.* Reglamento general del "Club Union." Carácas, 1871. 8vo. pp. 8.
53*a*. *Caratal Gold Fields.* See Foster.
54. *Cárdenas.* See García.
55. *Carreño.* Manual de urbanidad y buenas maneras, para un de la juventud de ambos sexos. . . . Por Manuel Antonio Carreño. Carácas, 1853. 8vo, pp. xvi. and 318.

56. *Castillo.* Teatro de la Legislacion Colombiana y Venezolana vigente. Por Dr. P. P. del Castillo. Carácas, 1852. 3 vols, 4to, pp. 592, 549, 412.

56*a*. *Casas.* See Defensa.

57. *Castro.* Confesion de Julian Castro y Sentencia de la Nacion Venezolana. Año de 1858. Carácas. 8vo, pp. 29. A political satire on a former President of the Republic.

58. *Catalogo.* De los cuadros, fotografías y esculturas espuestas en la primera esposicion venezolana anual llevada á cabo en 1872, bajo los auspicios de los señores Jeneral A. Guzman Blanco, Presidente provisional de la República, Ministros de Fomento, Dr. Martin J. Sanavria y de Relaciones Esteriores, Antonio L. Guzman, y del Gobernador del Distrito federal, Dr. Jesus María Paul. Carácas. Fol. pp. 4.

58*a*. *Catalogue.* See Spence.

59. *Caulin.* Historia corografica, natural y evangelica de la Nueva Andalucia, provincias de Cumaná, Nueva Barcelona, Guayana y vertientes del rio Orinoco. Por Antonio Caulin. 4to, pp. 460.

60. *Chirinos.* Carta postal de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, por Rafael Chirinos. Carácas, 1873. One sheet.

60*a*. *Chitty.* See Vargasia.

60*b*. *Club.* See Carácas, and Ernst.

61. *Codazzi.* Atlas físico político de la República de Venezuela dedicado, por su autor, el Coronel de Ingenieros Agustin Codazzi, al congreso constitugente de 1830. Carácas, 1840. Folio, pp. 8. 19 maps.

62. *Codazzi.* Catecismo de la Geografía de Venezuela. Por Agustin Codazzi. Carácas, 1867. 12mo, pp. 80.

63. *Codazzi.* Proyecto de poblar con las razas teutónicas los terrenos altos y hasta ahora incultos de Venezuela. Carácas, 1842. 8vo, pp. 14. With map.

64. *Codazzi.* Rapport sur les travaux géographiques et statisques exécutés dans la république de Venezuela, d'après les ordres du Congrès, par M. le Colonel Codazzi. Paris. 4to, pp. 18. (Extrait des Comptes renduo des séances de l'Académie des Sciences, séance du 15 Mars, 1841.)

65. *Codazzi.* Resúmen de la Geografía de Venezuela, por Agustin Codazzi. Paris, 1841. 8vo, pp. 648.

66. *Codazzi.* See Millan, Rójas, and Rosa.

67. *Codigo.* Codigo civil sancionado, por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela desde su descubrimiento y conquista hasta que se declaró estado independiente. Carácas, 1840. 8vo, pp. xi. 192.

68. *Codigo.* Codigo civil sancionado, por el General Guzman Blanco, Presidente provisional de la Republica y General en jefe de sus ejercitos. Edicion oficial. Carácas, 1873. Folio,

pp. 183–5. Codigo Penal, pp. 78, 2. Codigo de Comercio, pp. 112, 2.

69. *Coleccion.* Coleccion general de los Tratados públicos Celebrados por Colombia y Venezuela con varias naciones de Europe y America. Carácas, 1840. 8vo, pp. 151.

69*a*. *Colombia:* being a Geographical, Statistical, Agricultural, Commercial, and Political Account of that country, adapted for the general reader, the Merchant, and the Colonist. London, published by Baldwin, Cradock, & Son. 1822.

69*b*. *Colombia.* The present State of Colombia, containing an account of the principal events of its revolutionary war, the expeditions fitted out in England to assist in its emancipation; its constitution, financial, and commercial laws; revenue, expenditure, and public debt; agriculture, mines; mining and other associations, with a map exhibiting its mountains, rivers, departments, and provinces. By an Officer late in the Colombian service. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street. 1827.

69*c*. *Colombia.* See Bolivar, Briceño, Castillo, García y García, Leyes, Lisbôa, Michelena, and Recollections.

70. *Colombia.* Constitucion de la Republica de Colombia. Carácas, 1822. 4to, pp. 40.

70*a*. *Colon.* See Montenegro.

71. *Colonia Tovar.* Boletin de la Colonia Tovar. (In Spanish and German.) Nos. 1–5 complete. Colonia Tovar, 1843. 8vo, pp. 42.

71*a*. *Congreso.* See Blanco, Castillo, Codazzi, Codigo, Constitucion, and Guzman.

72. *Constitucion.* Constitucion politica del Estado de Venezuela formada por su segundo Congreso Nacional, y presentada a los pueblos para su sancion, el dia 15 de Agosto de 1819. Impresa en Angostura; reimpresa á Habana, 1821. 4to, pp. 60.

72*a*. *Coleridge.* See Form.

72*b*. *Comedia.* See Drama.

73. *Constitucion.* Constitution de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela. Edicion oficial. Carácas, 1864. 4to, pp. 52.

74. *Constituciones.* Constituciones synodales de Venezuela y Santiago Leon de Carácas. Hechos en la Santa Iglesia Catedral de dicho Ciudad de Carácas, en el año del Señor de 1687. Por el ilustrísimo y reverendísimo Señor Dr. Don Diego de Baños y Sotomayor, Obispo de dicho Obispado. Madrid, 1761. Folio, pp. 495. New edit. 1848, pp. viii. 486.

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156*b*. *Markham.* See Simon.

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177*b*. *Perrey.* See Rójas.

177*c*. *Peru.* See Bolivar, Briceño, and Michelena.

178. *Penal.* See Codigo, and Guzman.

178*a*. *Piar.* See Syers.

178*b*. *Pimentel y Roth.* Resumen Cronológico de las Leys y Decretos del credito Publico de Venezuela, desde el año 1826; Cuenta general hasta 31 de Diciembre de 1872. Liquidacion de todos los contratos desde 1864 precedida de un resumen de todos ellos, y cuadros demostrativos de las operaciones del mismo Credito Publico, por el Ministro del Ramo Francisco Pimentel y Roth. Carácas, 1873. Folio, pp. cxxxix. 412.

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183*b*. *Proclamas.* See Bolivar.

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por todos los ramos que comprehende su negociacion. Dispuesto todo por la Direccion de la misma Real Compañia año de 1765. 4to, pp. 183.

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193*a*. *Rójas.* Fragmento de un estudio geologico sobre los terremotos y temblores de tierra en Venezuela. Por Arístides Carácas, 1865. 8vo, pp. 28.

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194*a*. *Rójas.* Mapa Politico de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela. Reduccion del mapa de Coronel A. Codazzi, arreglado a la actual territorial, por Ledo F. de P. Acosta, ingeniero. Carácas, Rójas Hermanos, editores (printed in Paris). Con privilegio del Gobierno de la Republica (large sheet).

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196. *Rójas.* Lenguaje de las flores y de las frutas. Por A. Rójas. Carácas, 1867. 8vo, pp. xxx. 140.

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199. *Rôjas.* Ciencia para todos. El Rei de los Volcanes. Por A. Rójas. Carácas, 1869. 4to, pp. 42.
200. *Rôjas.* See Almanaque, Humboldt, and Vargasia.
201. *Rôjas.* La Cuestion Harina de Trigo en sus relaciones con la sociedad y con el fisco. Por Dr. José M. Rójas. Carácas, 1869. 4to, pp. iv. 58.
202. *Rosa.* Plano de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, delineado con arreglo á las mas recientes y autenticas autoridades, siendo las principales el Plano corografico de Codazzi, las cartas levantados por el almiron Tazgo británico y las de los SS. Blunt. Por el Ingeniero civil R. Rosa. New York, 1866.
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204. *Rothe.* Album de Bailes, una nueva coleccion de lindisimas composiciones. Originales de este género, todas por los maestros más renombrados del pais. 43 pájinas con 26 piezas, dibujados por el talentoso artista venezolano Ramon Bolet. Carácas: A. Rothe.
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207. *Salazar.* Biografia del General Matias Salazar. Valencia, 1872. 8vo, pp. 48.
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214. *Simon.* The Expedition of Pedro de Ursua and Lope de Aguirre in search of El Dorado and Omagua in 1560–1. Translated from Fray. Pedro Simon's "Sixth Historical Notice of the Conquest of Tierra Firmé." By William Bollaert, Esq., F.R.G.S. With an introduction by Clements R. Markham, Esq. London, printed for the Hakluyt Society, 1867. 8vo, pp. (xiii.) liii. 237.

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215*b*. *Sotomayor.* See Constituciones.

216. *Spence.* See Alpine Journal, Engel, and Sclater and Salvin.

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242*c*. *Whist.* See Leseur.

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245. *Yangues.* Principios, y reglas de la lengva Cvmmanagota,

general en varias naciones, qve habitan en la provincia de Cvmmana en las Indias occidentales. Compvestos por el R. P. Predicador Fr. Manuel de Yangues, del Orden de N. P. S. Francisco, hijo de la S. Prouincia de Castilla, y Missionero en las viuas Conversiones de los Cummanagotos, Piritus, y otra Naciones. Dirigidos al Reverendissimo Padre Fray Christoual del Viso, Comissario General de Indias, &c. "Sacado a lvz aora nvevamente corregido," y reducidos á mayor claridad, breuedad, jvnto con vn Diccionario qve ha compvesto el R. P. Fr. Mathias Blanco, Religioso de las misma Orden, Lector de Theologia, Examinador Synodal de el Obispado de San Iuan de Puerto-Rico, hijo de la Santa Prouincia de Andaluzia, y Missionero de las dichas converziones. Con Licencia. En Bvrgos: Por Iuan de Viar, año de 1683. 4to, pp. vi. 220.

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R.

ON NEOLITHIC STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM VENEZUELA.

BY JOHN PLANT, F.G.S.

A Paper read before the Manchester Geological Society, December 24, 1873.

In the collection of objects and natural products brought by Mr. James M. Spence from Venezuela are seven stone implements, obtained from the ancient burial-places of the primitive Indians, which are found very widely spread over the country. These implements are of serpentine, greenish jade, sienite, diorite, and black trap. The largest is shaped like an axe of uniformly thin serpentine, with the edges sharpened, and the projecting heft cut like a triangle, for the firmer fastening to the long handle. This implement is too weak for heavy work, and being nearly 9 inches long, was probably only a symbolical weapon used at the sacrifices. It agrees with the Mexican and Central American axes in shape and workmanship. The next in size is a broken smoothed hatchet of fine grained trap, 6 inches long, thick, and rude in form, similar to hatchets found all over Central and North America. The third is a small hatchet of fine grained sienite, 4 inches long, a type of weapon of common occurrence in Europe and America. The fourth is a small hatchet of greenstone or diorite, like the implements seen in the hands of the carved figures and hieroglyphic drawings from Mexico. The fifth is a smaller one, nicely worked, but broken. The sixth is part of a knife or chisel of light green jadestone. The seventh is a small boulder of dark diorite, with two flattened sides, and is traditionally said to have been used for the purpose of smoothing the stone weapons made by the Indians. These implements have the typical characteristics of the weapons described by Mr. E. G. Squier in his work, published by the Smithsonian Institution, as found over Central and South America.

S.

THE MANCHESTER SCIENTIFIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION—EXHIBITION OF VENEZUELAN CURIOSITIES.

LAST evening a *soirée* of this association was held in the Memorial Hall. The exhibition in connection with it of Mr. J. M. Spence's most interesting and valuable collection of Venezuelan curiosities (of which a larger portion was exhibited at the rooms of the Literary and Philosophical Society, and described in the *Guardian* about two months ago) attracted a large crowd of visitors. There was a general feeling of regret that this collection, incomparable in its extent and variety, could not remain open to public inspection for a few days. Besides objects illustrative of the natural history of Venezuela, with which the tables were loaded, the walls of the room were covered with water-colour drawings, chiefly by native artists, which conveyed a vivid impression of the characteristic features of the country. In the course of the evening, Professor W. C. Williamson, F.R.S., the president of the association, took the chair, and, in introducing Mr. Spence, said that no single traveller who had not gone abroad for the special purpose of collecting had ever made so large, varied, and valuable a collection as Mr. Spence. During his (Mr. Spence's) residence in Venezuela he was engaged in commercial pursuits, yet he set an example worthy to be followed by every one, similarly circumstanced, of how with such pursuits a devotion to the enlightened and elevating study of natural history could be combined. Mr. Spence delivered an address descriptive of Venezuela and its people, and of the natural products which it yields.* He also gave some account of his personal experience in the country. A very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Spence was passed on the motion of Mr. Plant, seconded by Mr. Angell; and some time was afterwards spent by the company in inspecting the objects in the room. †

* Appendix Q, No. 220.

† As most of the objects forming the collection were presented to the author by people of the republic, he thinks it only due to the donors to insert the above article.

T.

THE CHURCH OF ROME IN VENEZUELA.

(*The Times, September* 18, 1876.)

MR. R. J. SIMPSON, a member of the South American Missionary Society's Committee, has favoured us with the following correspondence from one of their missionary clergymen, the Rev. J. Roe :—

"CARÁCAS, *May* 15, 1876.

"It is not possible to estimate the importance of the religious crisis through which this country is passing. As I was arriving in the capital on Wednesday evening last, the Houses of Congress were voting unanimously that the Church of Venezuela will be henceforth independent of Rome. By this mail I will send you the particulars as published in the press. You will see that the President's Message is exceedingly important, for while it breaks off all connection virtually with Rome, it acknowledges and asserts the truth and greatness of the true Christian religion. The answer from the Congress exhibits the same spirit. I consider this step to be the only true statesmanlike step since the Reformation as regards political dealings of Roman Catholic countries in religious matters. The present President, Guzman Blanco, is a man of great talent and ruling power, and has kept the country in comparative peace during the past six years. He has suppressed all the monasteries and convents in the country, and turned their houses into useful institutions; he has abolished celibacy and established civil marriage; he the other day inaugurated a magnificent masonic temple, built at the expense of the State; he is improving the city and country wonderfully, and establishing schools throughout; and last, but not least, as regards England, he is making arrangements to pay interest on the National Debt. Such are some of the things this extraordinary man is doing, and the future of this very beautiful and fertile country seems hopeful; hitherto it has been in a state of chronic revolution.

I append a translation of the Message of the President of Venezuela to the House of Congress :—

"'Citizen Senators and Citizen Deputies,—In my report of the administrative year, which closed on the 20th of February last, I said, speaking of archiepiscopal disputes, that the last term which I had been asked to grant was in order that, in conformity with certain indications received from Rome, Señor Guevard should present to His Holiness his resignation of the Archbishopric, an act by which the usurping policy of the Holy See believes that Venezuela could alone be enabled to elect an Archbishop, and the Pope authorized to grant him the faculty to act, all which is to ignore the sovereignty of the country—the whole source of power whence its prelates derive the jurisdiction in their dioceses or archbishoprics—and is, moreover, diametrically opposed to the express text of Articles XVI. and XVII. of the Law of Patronage in force since 1824, which literally is as follows :—

"'Art. XVI.—Those designated by the Congress for the Archbishopric and Bishoprics before they present themselves to His Holiness through the Executive Government, must make before said Executive, or the person whom the Executive may delegate to this end, the oath to sustain and defend the Constitution of the Republic, not to usurp her sovereignty, rights, and prerogatives, and to obey and fulfil the laws, orders, and dispositions of the Government. Two copies of this oath shall be drawn up, both to be signed by the nominees, one of which shall be passed to the Senate, and the other to the Chamber of Deputies, to be kept in their respective archives.

"'Art. XVII.—As soon as the nominees have made the preceding oath they may enter into the exercise of their jurisdiction, the Executive summoning the ecclesiastical bodies to this effect; but they shall not enjoy the emoluments of their office until the Pope shall have confirmed their nomination.

"'The term granted terminated on the 19th April; but as the Pope's Nuncio in San Domingo notified to me on the 20th, that on the 21st he would proceed to Trinidad in order to obtain the resignation of Señor Guevard, in conformity with the instructions he had just received, I judged it advisable that I should make a new and final effort, and await the result of the conference between Monsignore Roccabocetria and the ex-Archbishop. Yesterday, I received the official intimation that Señor Guevard refuses to resign, and I am also informed that the Nuncio has not the power to oblige him to resign nor to remove him. Such being the situation, all

diplomatic means of settling the archiepiscopal dispute are exhausted, and I have taken upon myself to pass a law which shall declare the Church of Venezuela independent of the Roman Episcopate, and ask that you further order that parish priests shall be elected by the faithful, the Bishops by the rectors of parishes, the Archbishops by Congress, returning to the usage of the Primitive Church, founded by Jesus Christ and His Apostles. Such a law will not only resolve the clerical question, but it will be besides a grand example for the Christian Church of republican America, hindered in her march towards liberty, order, and progress by the policy, always retrograde, of the Roman Church, and the civilized world will see in this act the most characteristic and palpable sign of advance in the regeneration of Venezuela. GUZMAN BLANCO.'

"The following is the Address of Congress in reply :—'Illustrious American, President of the United States of Venezuela :—The Legislative Chambers assembled in Congress have considered with patriotic interest the important Message communicated to them through the Ministry, under date of the 9th inst., upon the Archiepiscopal Question. Congress sees, with profound displeasure, that the Roman See refuses to satisfy the just desires of the people of Venezuela upon the grave question which we are engaged in debating through the fault of a prelate false to his duties as a priest and patriot, and who dares to insist upon the right to override that natural sovereignty which we exercise as an independent and free nation. The country knows, noble American, that with wisdom and prudence you have endeavoured to reconcile the interests of Venezuela with the capricious demands of the Roman See as far as our national dignity, the majesty of our institutions, and the high duties which the revolution of April imposed upon you have permitted; and thus the Members of this Congress, founders of this glorious epoch of national regeneration, convinced of the justice which assists Venezuela in this dispute, and inspired with the convictions of their constituents which repel all foreign intervention, do not hesitate to associate themselves with your Excellency to fight this last battle—all diplomatic efforts having failed—against the Roman See in the name of modern civilization and our national sovereignty. Faithful to our duties, faithful to our convictions, and faithful to the Holy Dogmas of the religion of Jesus, of that Great Being who consecrated the world's freedom with His blood, we do not hesitate to emancipate the Church of Venezuela from that Episcopacy which pretends, as an infallible and omnipotent power, to

absorb from Rome the vitality of a free people, the beliefs of our consciences, and the noble aspirations and destinies which pertain to us as component parts of the great human family. Congress offers to your Excellency and will give you all the aid you seek to preserve the honour and the rights of our nation, and announces now with patriotic pleasure that it has already begun to elaborate the law which your Excellency asked it to frame. Rely upon our patriotism and upon our loyalty to the great principles of our democratic republic.

T. V. GUEVARD,
President of Congress and of the Senate.
EDUARDO CALCANO,
President of the Chamber of Deputies.

CARÁCAS, *May 16th.*

Together with the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of both Chambers.'

"Let me only add a commentary from the leading journal of Venezuela, the *Opinion Nacional*:—'To day we publish the reply which was given last night by the Congress to the illustrious American upon the subject-matter of his last Message, which is, in fact, the question relative to the appointment of the Bishops of Venezuela which the Pope has for ages past arrogated to himself, and which should revert to and become the exclusive function of the territorial Sovereign in every nation, as it was uninterruptedly in the first ages of Christianity. To re-establish at this point the true discipline of the Church from the time of her foundation, when her doctrine was pure and she respected the civil rights and prerogatives of temporal government, when as yet the ambitions and earthly passions of the men she had raised to high ecclesiastical dignities had not culminated in those usurpations which have become the scandal of modern times, is to gravitate with all sincerity towards that genuine religion of Christ, and to refuse to become the accomplice of those adulterations which falsify her law, which substitute the reign of vanity, pride, and contempt for mankind for the doctrine of gentleness, meekness, and love. This dispute does not enter into the region of dogmas, for two reasons—first, because it is by its very nature purely jurisdictional, and it cannot be dragged either by violence or reason on to the *terrain* of the fundamental truths of dogmatic belief; secondly, because a National Congress, a purely political corporation, cannot by its very nature be called upon to declare new religious dogmas, and convert itself into a Council with the same authority wherewith the Pope has instituted himself for those, and has donned the cap of infallibility.'"

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